

# Getting Started

## Introduction to NRA Action Pistol

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*Are you interested in getting involved in competitive shooting? Are you at a loss as of how and where to start? We hope this guide will help give you a better understanding of NRA Action Pistol and the competitive shooting sports. Getting involved has NEVER been easier!*

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**The Sport** NRA Action Pistol is open to all individuals who are interested in “Action” courses of fire, which combine speed and accuracy while shooting at multiple targets of steel and cardboard/ paper. The purpose of this document is to give you general information on how to get started in the sport of NRA Action Pistol competition. The information below will answer questions that are commonly asked when first getting started in the sport.

NRA Action Pistol is a dynamic discipline within the “Action Pistol” shooting sports. It is a combination of speed and accuracy, weighing more on the accuracy aspect, with speed still playing a major factor in your ability to put up a good score. All shots are fired static (no moving while firing) from a set distance and all the courses of fire are run on par times where all shots must be fired within the set par time i.e. 6 shots in 5 seconds, if you fire a shot after the designated 5 second par time has elapsed, you are penalized. This combination is what makes NRA Action Pistol such a fun, challenging and exciting discipline. Being able to draw a pistol from holster, fire 6 rounds in 5 seconds into a paper plate sized scoring area, is a lot of fun and very challenging. The confidence gained in your marksmanship from shooting NRA Action Pistol will be noticed when shooting other popular “Action Pistol” shooting disciplines offered around the country such as USPSA, IDPA, ICORE and PPC.

**Courses of Fire** There are 17 Approved Courses of Fire (COF) in NRA Action Pistol, as well as a new “Probationary Course of Fire” for each of the approved COF offered within this discipline. Targets used are NRA AP-1 for outdoor and NRA AP-2 reduced targets for indoor; 8” steel plates are used for the Falling Plate Event and steel Colt Speed Targets are used for the Speed Event.

Listed below are the approved NRA Action Pistol Courses of Fire.

- 1) Los Alamitos
- 2) The Flying “M”
- 3) The Moving Target Event
- 4) International Rapid Fire (Modified)
- 5) Advanced Military Pistol
- 6) Practical Event
- 7) Barricade Event
- 8) Moving Target Event (Modified)
- 9) Texas Mover
- 10) Falling Plate Event
- 11) Tyro Course
- 12) Speed Event
- 13) Crawford Barricade
- 14) Combat Event
- 15) Ambidextrous Match
- 16) The Speedload Challenge
- 17) Civilian 1500



To download a free PDF of the NRA Action Pistol Rule Book, use this link <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nra-rule-books.asp>, inside you will find full course descriptions for all NRA Action Pistol courses of fire.

## Equipment

If you are a novice shooter you do not need a lot of specialized, high price equipment to participate. It's possible for a beginner to compete with an out-of-the-box firearm that is semi auto or revolver; the key factors of any gun are safety and reliability. Another very important piece of equipment for Action Pistol Shooting is a safe holster.

In order to compete in an NRA Action Pistol competition, you need to have the following equipment. The four major pieces of equipment you'll need are a pistol, holster, ammunition magazines and magazine carriers. If you are using a Revolver, you will need the same equipment specific to revolvers i.e. speed loaders and speed load carriers. Wearing a quality waist belt is also recommended to help eliminate holster movement during the draw. Stiff belts are much better than soft/flexible belts. The more torsion strength they have the better, this will help keep you pistol and holster tight against your body and without "play" or movement of the holster during your draw or while reholstering your firearm.



There are 3 different "Divisions" or types of pistol within the sport of NRA Action Pistol; the first is the **Open Division**. In the Open Division you are allowed the use of an electronic sight on your pistol, also found in the open division are "wings" for bracing against the barricade during events that include shooting from cover. A minimum trigger weight of 2 lbs. You may also use an "Open" holster i.e. a holster which does not surround the entire pistol, but instead allows for a faster, forward draw, versus the traditional up and out draw of a standard top draw holster. Next is the **Metallic Division**; in the Metallic Division you are NOT allowed to have electronic

sights of any kind, hence the name “Metallic” insinuating the use of metallic iron sights only. In the metallic division you are allowed the use of adjustable sights on the front and rear of your firearm. You are NOT allowed the use of “wings” but you do have the same 2 lbs minimum trigger weight and are allowed the use of an open face holster. The newest and fastest growing Division in NRA Action Pistol is the **Production Division**, in the Production Division;



you are not allowed any of the modifications of the Open or Metallic Divisions. The intent of the production division is for you to use an “out of the box” pistol, such as but not limited to, a GLOCK, FNH, Smith & Wesson or CZ-USA semi auto and or revolver; Colt is very popular in the Metallic and Open Divisions in the 1911 Platform. You must use a standard top draw holster. (Blade-Tech Industries, Safariland Inc. and Comp Tac are three of the popular holster and magazine/ carrier companies on the market) and there is a 3.5 lbs trigger weight minimum in any mode for semi auto and in double action only mode for revolver. For a full description of rules for all three Divisions, please refer to the NRA Action Pistol Rule Book link, provided above. This is strongly encouraged; you will want to make sure you know what division your pistol will fall into. Learning the specific rules for your division prior to competing is strongly advised.

Listed below are company websites for purchasing competitive shooting equipment and firearms:

#### Equipment

<http://www.midwayusa.com/>

<http://www.safariland.com/>

<http://www.blade-tech.com/home.php>

<http://www.comp-tac.com/>

#### Firearms

<http://www.colt.com/>

<http://www.sigsauer.com/>

<http://www.glock.com/GlockLanding/index.html>

<http://www.smith-wesson.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CustomContentDisplay?langId=-1&storeId=750001&content=11001&catalogId=750051>

<http://www.cz-usa.com/>

<http://www.fnhusa.com/>

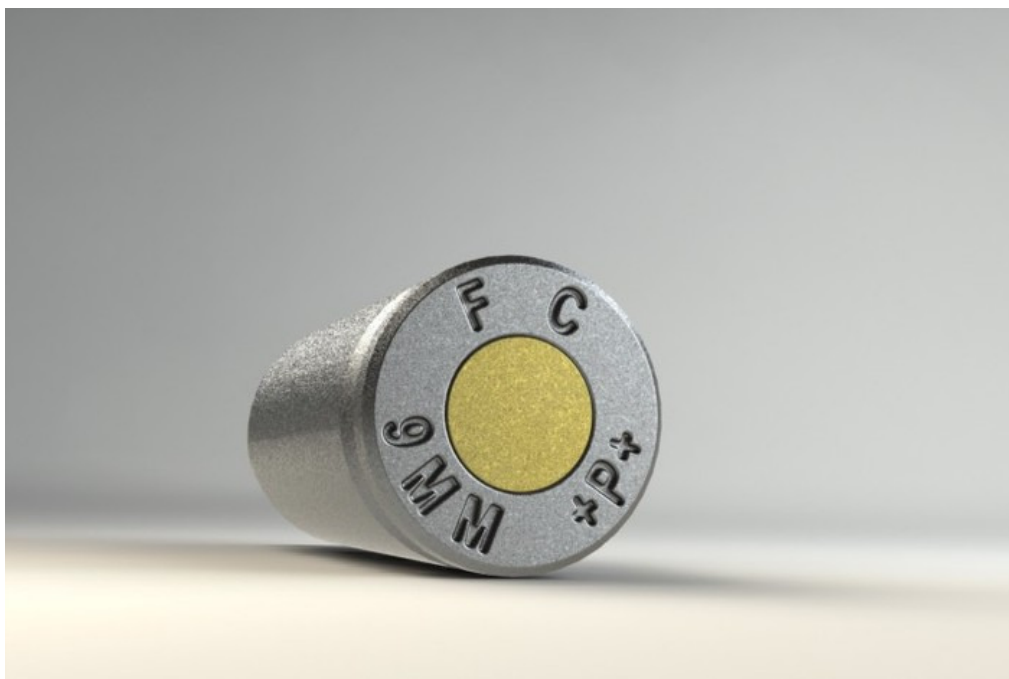
## Ammunition

The most common caliber used in NRA Action Pistol is 9mm. This is closely followed by .38 Super as well as .38 Special. There is a power factor in NRA Action Pistol, the power factor is 120,000. Most if not all factory ammunition has no problem making power factor. Custom loads should be tested before use in competition to avoid being denied use of ammunition the day of competition.

(Power Factor formula – Bullet weight (*grains*) x FPS (*feet per second*) = not less than 120,000)

Official Ammo Sponsor of the MidwayUSA & NRA Bianchi Cup (National Championship of NRA Action Pistol) is Federal ATK, premier ammunition manufacturer.

<http://www.federalpremium.com/>



## Targets

The official NRA Action Pistol Shooting Targets are rectangular, with the top-end rounded. These targets were designed for use in the Bianchi Cup Tournament and through arrangement with John Bianchi, will be printed by NRA licensed manufacturers, in both cardboard and paper. They will carry the Bianchi Trademark and NRA Official Seal.

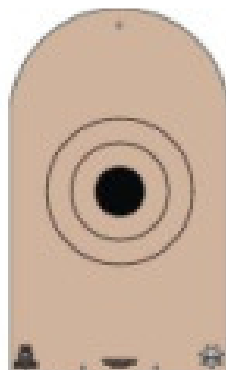
The second "official" target is an 8 inch diameter round "plate" made from .375 (3/8) inch thick steel. It is normally painted white. The plates may have individual bases and may sit on a stand in a series of six, or they may be fitted with hinges on metal frames as a more elaborate, permanent fixture. In order to score a hit, which is 10 points, the target must be knocked down. The third "official" target is the speed plate, which is made from .375 (3/8) inch steel. It is painted white. In the speed event, 4 of the 5 targets must be knocked down to score, while the 5th (stop-plate) must be hit to stop the clock.

The fourth "official" target is the NRA B-18 Target used for the Combat Event. The top edge of the scoring area begins at the upper midpoint in the 6 ring and ends at the lower midpoint of the 6 ring at the bottom of the target. It is divided into 5 scoring zones, (hits outside the 6 ring are scored as misses). The 10 ring is formed by two vertical lined 5cm long, 10cm apart and joined at the top and bottom by semicircles with a 5cm radius. The 10 ring is therefore 10cm wide and 15cm high. The 9 through 6 rings are similarly shaped with their widths successively increased by 10cm (5cm on each side) and their heights by 15cm (7.5cm at the top and bottom). The center of the 10 ring must be 37.5cm from the top of the target. The 10 ring is not numbered. The B-24 target is used for firing at 50 feet.

A list of NRA Official Target Manufacturers is available at <http://competitions.nra.org.local/nra-licensed-target-manufacturers.aspx>



**B-18**



**AP-1**



## Classification

**Classified Competitors** - Are all individuals who are officially classified by the NRA for Action Pistol Competition, or Rimfire Action Pistol Competition or who have a record of scores fired over courses of fire used for classification (see 19.4) which have been recorded in a Score Record Book.

**Unclassified Competitor** - Is a competitor who does not have a current NRA Action Pistol Classification, or Rimfire Action Pistol Competition either regular or temporary by Score Record Book (Rule 19.14), nor an "Assigned Classification" (Rule 19.6). Such competitor shall compete in the Master Class.

The classifications in NRA Action Pistol are as follows: Unclassified, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, Master and High Master. If you compete in an NRA sanctioned tournament as an unclassified shooter, as mentioned above, you will automatically be given a "temporary" classification in the Master class for that first tournament only. Once you have fired your first tournament, you will be given an "official" classification according to the score you shot in said, first initial tournament. After your first tournament you will compete in your classification until you have fired a minimum of 288 rounds, at which time your scores will be recalculated for possible reclassification.

NRA Action Pistol classification is based on percentage scored out of a possible perfect score. A perfect score in a standard 192 shot match is 1920 – 192x. *As a side note, this score has never been fired in the history of the sport! You could be the first!*

### Classification percentages are broken down below:

High Master	99% - 100%
Master	96% - 98.99%
Expert	90% - 95.99%
Sharpshooter	80% - 89.99%
Marksman & Below	80%



## RIMFIRE Action Pistol

.22 caliber Rimfire competitions are growing in popularity among every level of competitor, from novice youth, all the way up to the Pros. The ammunition is cost effective and presents an easy, less intimidating platform for the beginner or junior competitor. All approved courses of fire can and may be fired using Rimfire pistols; most local club matches offer a Rimfire Division. Call in advance of attending a match for confirmation.

## More Information

For more information or for specific questions email [actionpistol@nrahq.org](mailto:actionpistol@nrahq.org) or call 703.267.1478 to speak with the Pistol Program Coordinator in the Competitive Shooting Division. You can also go to the NRA Action Pistol webpage here <http://www.nrahq.org/compete/dept-action.asp> to find even more information.

## Find competitions near you

The fastest and easiest way to find a local competition to you is to email [actionpistol@nrahq.org](mailto:actionpistol@nrahq.org) or call 703.267.1478 to speak with the pistol program coordinator. You can also subscribe to your free monthly digital edition of Shooting Sports USA Magazine (<http://www.nrapublications.org/ssusa/>) and go to the calendar of events section and look for **Action Pistol** and a list of matches per state.

**If you or someone you know would like to start holding competitions at your club, please call the Pistol Program Coordinator at the number listed above under “More Information” and you will be provided with a detailed breakdown of how to organize, set up, run, process and submit your clubs matches.**

**Click on the link below to introduce competitive shooting to your club using the Club Champion Challenge! Who’s the best shot at your club?**



## **NRA Club Champion Challenge**

**A recreational event for shooting clubs, civic organizations and businesses.**