**Summary of Approved Changes in the 2013-2016 ISSF Rules**

 **The ISSF Administrative Council has approved rule changes for the 2013-2016 ISSF Rules that are listed in this summary. Rule changes in this summary were proposed by the ISSF Section Committees, approved by the ISSF Technical Committee and given final approval by the Council in accordance with the ISSF Constitution (1.7.2.5). Detailed rules for Finals in Olympic events as well as a few additional rules will be approved by the Council in November 2012. The complete edition of the *ISSF Official Statutes, Rules and Regulations, Edition 2013* will be released as soon as possible after the Council meeting.**

**GENERAL TECHNICAL RULES** (apply to all disciplines):

 **Safety Flags**. The use of safety flags confirming that a gun is unloaded with its action open is mandatory for all rifles, pistols and semi-automatic shotguns. The ISSF will announce specific requirements for safety flags to be used in ISSF Championships as soon as possible.

 **Range Scoreboards.** In addition to the Main Scoreboard, each Qualification Range must have a Range Scoreboard for posting Start Lists and Preliminary Results.

 **Internet Service.** Ranges used for ISSF Championships are required to have Internet service at the range that can be used to transmit entry, results and ISSF-TV data.

 **ISSF Dress Code.** Compliance with the ***ISSF Dress Code*** is required by rule.

 **Jury Member Identification.** All Jury Members are required to wear red “Jury” vests while on duty. Jury vests are available for purchase from the ISSF.

 **Shoe Sole Flexibility Testing**. The requirement for shoe sole flexibility testing is adopted by rule. The Technical Committee must approve testing devices.

 **Kinesio or Medical Taping**. Prohibited by rule.

 **Replacing Equipment Control Cards**. There will be a EUR 10.00 fee to replace equipment control cards. This change is necessary to reduce the many requests to replace cards that cause delays in equipment control testing.

 **Retesting Shooting Clothing**. There will be a EUR 20.00 fee when Equipment Control must retest shooting clothing that failed the first test at a Championship and that must be altered and retested before it can be used.

 **Sighting Shots for 10m and 50m Events**. There will be a 15-minute Preparation and Sighting Time before each Qualification Round in all 10m and 50m Rifle and Pistol events. All sighting shots must be fired during this 15-minute period. No sighting shots may be fired after the competition time starts except that in the 50m 3-position rifle events, sighting shots may be fired between the prone and standing positions and between the standing and kneeling positions.

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 **Malfunctions in 10m, 50m and 300m Events**. Malfunctions in 10m, 50m and 300m Rifle and Pistol events may be repaired or a disabled gun may be replaced with Jury approval, but no extra time will be allowed to repair or replace a malfunction or disabled gun.

 **Ties for the Last Position(s) in 10m, 25m, 50m and 300m Events**. Regular tie-breaking rules that use inner tens, then a series-by-series count back and then a shot-by-shot count back will be used to decide ties for the last position(s) in Rifle and Pistol Finals. Qualification shoot-offs will no longer be used because these shoot-offs made scheduling much more difficult.

**PISTOL RULES**

 **Changing 25m Backing Targets and Control Sheets**. Backing targets and control sheets must be changed after the sighting series and every 15 competition shots (previously after every 5 competition shots).

 **Vibration Reduction Systems**. The installation of any type of vibration reduction system in or on the pistol is prohibited.

 **Trigger Pull Weight Measurements**. Only trigger weights with metal or rubber knife-edges may be used. Trigger weights with round trigger contact ends may no longer be used.

 **Rapid Fire Pistol Velocity Testing**. The requirement that cartridges must have 2.53g or heavier bullets and produce an average muzzle velocity of 250.0 m/sec or greater is retained, but testing procedures are clarified. A minimum of three cartridges must be checked.

 **Shooting Shoe Sole Flexibility**. If special shooting shoes are worn, the soles of athletes’ shoes must bend at least 22.5 degrees when a force of 15 Newton-Meters is applied to the heel area while the boot or shoe is clamped in the testing device.

 **Normal Walking Test**. To demonstrate that their shoe soles are flexible, athletes must walk normally at all times while on the field of play. Repeated violations can result in a 2-point penalty or even disqualification.

 **25m Pistol Grips**. The configuration of the top part of the grip is clarified. The point where the grip first touches the top of the hand may not be more that 30mm from the deepest part of the grip.

 **Time Limits**. Time limits are reduced as follows. These events will have a separate 15-minute Preparation and Sighting times that are not included in these times.

o 10m Air Pistol Men: From 105 to 75 minutes

o 10m Air Pistol Women: From 75 to 50 minutes

o 50m Pistol Men: From 120 to 90 minutes

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**NEW FINALS RULES**

The ISSF Administrative Council has approved many changes in its Finals rules for Olympic events to go into effect in 2013. Detailed rules for these finals have been drafted and will be presented to the Administrative Council for approval at its meeting in November 2012. Since the competition formats for the new Finals have been approved, however, this “Summary” also provides information about the 2013 Finals.

**REASONS FOR CHANGING SHOOTING FINALS**

 All Olympic sports today must become more dynamic, attract more fans, engage the public with more drama and provide great shows for youth, spectators, television and the media.

 The current Shooting Finals began in 1986; they represented a big step forward at that time, but 26 years of experience has demonstrated that many improvements are possible.

 During the last three years, many proposals and ideas for new Finals were developed and tested by ISSF Section Committees, as well as its Technical, Athletes and Coaches Committees. The best of these ideas are now in the new Finals Rules.

 The ideas that proved to be most successful in ISSF tests as well as for other sports or that were recommended by television and media experts are starting all athletes who qualify for the Final at zero, using eliminations to add drama throughout the Final, deciding the medals with two-person duels and duels and using scoring systems that spectators can react to instantly.

 Changes made in the Rapid-Fire Pistol Finals for 2011, with finalists starting at zero, hit-miss scoring, eliminations and gold medal duels have been especially exciting and successful. The success of these ideas made them a model for the new 2013 Finals.

**PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW FINALS**

 **Qualification**. Qualification courses of fire and rules remain the same as they are now. The purpose of the Qualification is to advance the eight (or six in 25m RFP) best athletes to the Finals.

 **Start at Zero**. Qualification scores are no longer carried forward. Almost all sports have finals that begin as new contests. Shooting long had difficulties in explaining why some athletes in its Finals start with advantages.

 **More Shots in Finals**. Since the new Shooting Finals will start at zero, the number of shots in Finals was increased to ensure that they are a true test of skill.

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 **Eliminations of Lowest Ranked Finalists**. After firing an initial series of shots, the lowest ranked finalists are progressively eliminated until two athletes remain to fight for the gold medal.

 **Variations for Different Events**. All shooting events do not use the same Finals Format; different disciplines or event groups have different Finals formats to reflect the fact that all shooting events are not the same. The most dramatic ways to present each event were sought. Scoring for the 25m Pistol Finals uses hit-miss scoring, but tenth ring scoring is retained for the 10m and 50m Rifle and Pistol Events. Shotgun and 25m Pistol Women Finals use Quarterfinal and Semifinal Stages to identify the athletes who will compete in bronze and gold medal duels while other events use a series of eliminations to reach gold medal duels. 25m Pistol Women duel will use a point system to decide winners.

**COMPETITION FORMATS FOR THE NEW FINALS**

 **10m Air Pistol Men and Women, 10m Air Rifle Men and Women, 50m Rifle Prone Men and 50m Pistol Men.** Eight qualifiers advance and start at the same time. All finalists fire two series of three shots. Single shots begin with shot number seven, with the lowest ranking finalist being eliminated after every two shots (#8, #10, #12, #14, #16 and #18). After 18 shots, two athletes remain to fire two additional shots to decide the gold and silver medal winners.

 **25m Rapid-Fire Pistol Men.** Rules are essentially unchanged from the 2011-2012 rules.

 **25m Pistol Women.** Eight qualifiers advance and start at the same time. The Finals consists of two stages, an Elimination Stage and a Duel Stage. All

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scoring is hit-miss. The Elimination Stage consists of five (5) 5-shot rapid-fire series with all eight finalists firing at the same time. In the Duel Stage, the third and fourth place athletes from the Elimination Stage compete for the bronze medal and the first and second place athletes from the Elimination Stage compete for gold. The gold medal duel is fired after the bronze medal duel. Duels are decided by a point system where the best score in each 5-shot series receives two points and tied scores each receive one point each. Duel winners must score seven points.