



2006 SSAA Action Match Nationals

MATCH DIRECTORS BULLETIN 26/8/2006

Background

A primary purpose of SSAA Action Match is to encourage as many licenced handgun owners as possible to compete in the event.

When conducting non-sanctioned NRA matches the SSAA will;

- Use common sense when interpreting the spirit of the NRA rule book.
- On a case by case basis make decisions that allow or disallow the use of individual handguns in "production" class based on the historical purpose of "no-frill" handguns and referral to industry specifications.

The 2006 SSAA Action Match Nationals is not a NRA sanctioned match and the *NRA Action Pistol Shooting Rules* that govern official NRA matches will only be used as a guide. (Free NRA rule books will be available on a limited basis for competitors at the 2006 Nationals.)

Production Class

There have been some queries concerning "add-ons" to some models of commercially available "production" handguns.

We have perused manufacturers' websites and read their latest catalogues and we have identified instances where some modifications to a particular catalogue item may create discussion as to whether those modifications render the gun ineligible for Action Match "production" class.

We have had lengthy discussions with the NRA concerning this matter and the context of the official NRA rule book.

Three issues appear to be causing concern;

- Identification of a gun as a "catalogue item"?
- Whether the addition of a "*visible external modification*" eg ambidextrous safety offers a competitive advantage over the same make and model of gun fitted with an identical factory feature?
- The issue of "Custom shop" guns".

What is a catalogue item?

We accept the meaning of “catalogue” as a manufacturer’s publication (in any form) which describes the features of the firearm and details accessories, pricing and other information.

Products, services and options displayed and/or offered for sale by the manufacturer of the handgun in that catalogue would make them “catalogue items”. For example, the current STI catalogue offers a “Trojan” model handgun with an “option” of having an ambidextrous safety fitted before shipping. A “Trojan” handgun fitted with this factory option would in fact make it a “catalogue item”.

Ruling:

STI “Trojan” model handguns with factory fitted ambidextrous safeties will be specifically allowed to compete in “production” class for the SSAA 2006 Action Match Nationals.

Non Factory ambidextrous safeties on STI Trojan model handguns

The NRA rules (see below) determine that *“the firearm shall have no visible external modifications*

Case Study

You own a STI “Trojan” which was purchased from the factory or retailer with no ambidextrous safety fitted.

If after purchase you or your favourite non-factory gunsmith placed an ambidextrous safety on that gun. You would then be creating the prohibited *“visible external modification”* to a gun that was not shipped from the factory with such a feature.

You will be aware that STI offer (http://www.stiguns.com/catalog/STI_Catalog_2006.pdf) an ambidextrous safety as an “option” so it can be argued that such a factory modification, done pre shipping, may make the completed handgun a “catalogue item”. After all, the factory offers to sell you such a gun “in the catalogue “

The SSAA sees no competitive advantage by using a STI “Trojan” fitted with a non-factory ambidextrous safety over another STI “Trojan” being used with a factory fitted unit. However, if the factory did not offer an ambidextrous safety for the “Trojan” then we would not allow guns fitted with “after market” ambidextrous safeties to be used in “production” class events.

Ruling:

For the purpose of “production” class in the 2006 SSAA Nationals any STI handgun which is fitted with a visible external modification (eg ambidextrous safety) as described in the factory catalogue will be specifically allowed. This is notwithstanding any decision by the Match Referee after inspection of handguns nominated for use in this class during this event.

Custom Gun Shop items

The NRA rules specifically ban the use of handguns in “production” class which have been manufactured within “custom shop” facilities. Referral to manufacturers’ publications identifies those handguns listed under “custom shop” facilities. We recognise that many “service” handguns are now available “off the shelf” with modifications that were once regarded as “custom” features. However, there is no ambiguity in the referral to “custom shop” handguns within the NRA rules, and whilst manufacturers identify them as being produced in such a facility those handguns will not be allowed to be in “production” class.

Ruling:

SSAA will not allow handguns identified by the manufacturer as being assembled or produced in a “custom shop” or similar specialist manufacturing/assembly facility to be used in “production” class at the 2006 SSAA Action Match Nationals.

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3. Firearms, equipment and ammunition.

3.2.1 Production Firearm

A semi-automatic handgun or revolver which is or has been a catalogue item readily available to the general public equipped with metallic sights. Custom-shop pistols are not allowed. The firearm shall have no visible external modifications except as follows:

- (a) Replacement or modification of grips to fit a competitors hand or facilitate loading. No part of the grip may encircle the hand. Thumb rests are prohibited.**
- (b) Wide "target" style hammers and triggers**
- (c) Replacement of factory metallic sights with those of another manufacturer**
- (d) External finishes, either protective or decorative**