

Pistol Marksmanship Program

Document Booklet



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PISTOL MATCHES ARE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENTS AND ARE GOVERNED BY THE YEARLY PROGRAM BOOKLET. WE USE THE CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM RULES AS A GUIDE AND ARE SECONDARY TO THE PROGRAM BOOKLET.

THE MARKSMANSHIP COMMITTEE WILL REFER TO THE CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM RULES NOT COVERED BY MCL RULES AND DETERMINE HOW THEY MAY BE APPLIED.

ALL MATCH PARTICIPANTS MAY APPEAL ANY ISSUE TO THE MARKSMANSHIP COMMITTEE.

THE MARKSMANSHIP COMMITTEE HAS FINAL APPROVAL OF PISTOL RULES.

LINK TO CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM RULES

https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/5-2025-Bullseye-Pistol-Rules_v3final.pdf

Pistol Match Information For Service, Open, and Optical Matches

The Department Pistol Service and Open Matches will be held annually between March 1st and October 31st and referred to as the shooting season. Any Detachment in the Department of Pennsylvania may sponsor one or more matches during the shooting season. Registration forms will be handled by sponsoring Detachments.

All Department Pistol Service and Open Matches must be sanctioned by Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League and the sponsoring Detachment. The following requirements must be met to sponsor a sanctioned Pistol Match.

Approval from Pistol Range sponsor with information for insurance and other costs.

Pistol range sponsor will have range official(s) available during pistol match.

Hold Harmless Forms for Pistol Range, Detachment, & Department of Pennsylvania MCL

PA Department of Pennsylvania Insurance coverage approval for Pistol Match.

Department of Pennsylvania MCL approval of Pistol Match.

Pistol Match Flyer with date, time, location, and entry costs.

Letter from Detachment approving the sponsoring of the Pistol Match.

Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson will be responsible for following the Pistol Match rules listed in this document.

To avoid appearance of scoring conflict Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson will certify scores.

Detachment sponsored matches will have fees to cover expenses, such as insurance, targets, awards, and range costs.

Department fees will be collected from each shooter at each pistol match. All shooters can participate at multiple matches. Their high score will be used for Department Awards. November 31st is the due date for all scores.

Shooters will have their score cards verified by the Detachment sponsoring the match and submitted to the Marksmanship Committee by the November 31st due date. The highest score will be used to determine Department awards and will be posted on Department website by December 31st.

Please send Pistol Team registration and scores along with the fees to:

Marksmanship Chairman, Department of Pennsylvania

All checks must be made payable to Marine Corps League Department of Pennsylvania.

P.O. BOX 6687, Harrisburg, PA 17112-0687

All Individual and team registration forms must be typed or legibly printed with the competitor's full legal name using no nick names or aliases. The verified scores sheets must be signed by the Detachment Commandant or Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson to certify the match scores are true and correct.

Team Composition

- Pistol match teams must consist of four (4) competitors.
- Entries of three or less are eligible for individual awards and not eligible for team awards.
- Teams may be from a Marine Corps League Detachment, a Reserve Unit, or an Active Duty Unit.
- More than one team can be entered from a Detachment or Unit.
- All competitors on a team must be from the same Detachment or Unit.
- A competitor cannot be a member of more than one team.
- An Active or Reserve competitor can fire on a Marine Corps League Detachment team if he or she is a member of a Detachment.

Team and Individual Classifications

- Pistol teams will be classified as High Master, Master, Expert, Sharpshooter, or Marksman according to the competitors on the team.
- Teams are classified by calculating the team average based on the classification of each firing member of the team. To calculate the team's average a numeric representation of each classification is used, and the team classification is the sum of the team member's classifications divided by the number of firing members of the team. Any decimals of 0.5 and greater will place the team in the next higher class.

High Master.....	5
Master	4
Expert.....	3
Sharpshooter.....	2
Marksman	1

- First time competitors that are not NRA Conventional Pistol classified are assigned a Master classification which will be used for the current match and will be reclassified after the current year's match to their new Marine Corps League Classification.
- Competitors that are classified by the NRA will have that classification honored upon verification of their classification card. Please enclose a photocopy copy of your classification card.
- Previous Pistol Match competitors will have a MCL shooter classification.

General Match Information

- The Detachment or Unit must fire at a local gun club, military base, or sanctioned tournament where the course of fire is the same as the MCL Postal Match course of fire.
- Civilian Marksmanship Program Rules will be used for rules not covered by MCL match rules.
- Detachment Match Chairperson will be responsible to accommodate a shooter with disabilities.
- The range length for the pistol match must be 25 Yards.
- There are three (3) types of pistol matches. Service, Open, Open Optical.
- For any condition where these specific rules do not cover, refer to Civilian Marksmanship Program Match Rules. A pdf copy can be downloaded at the CMP website.

Service Pistol Match

- Only standard metallic sights can be used and no other sighting or aiming device such as lasers, red dots, etc. can be attached to the pistol in any manner.
- Standard grips must not exceed one and a half (1 1/2) inches and cannot have finger groves or other non-standard military design.
- Two handed grip is acceptable for both the Service Pistol Match and the Open Pistol Match.

Service Pistols

"The weapon must be a semi-automatic pistol, or revolver, a type that was designed for general military, law enforcement or other similar duty use. Any cartridge between 9x19 mm and .45 ACP is acceptable. Barrels are

restricted to 5.5 inches in length, triggers must lift 4.0 lbs. Only open (iron) sights are allowed to compete in the Service Class. All sights that are not iron must compete in an Open Class. Grips must be suitable for right- or left-hand use and have no orthopedic features. Recoil reduction systems of any type are prohibited. Service Pistols may not exceed 42 ounces in total weight."

Pistol Open Match

- The open pistol match is designed to give shooters who do not own or have access to military type pistols required for the Service Pistol Match.
- Open Match pistols may be revolver or semi-automatic type handgun larger than .22 caliber and smaller than .50 caliber.
- Only standard metallic sights can be used and no other sighting or aiming device such as lasers, red dots, etc. can be attached to the pistol in any manner.
- The Open Pistol Match is an identical course of fire and scoring to the service pistol course listed above.

Pistol Open Optical Match

- The open pistol match is designed to give shooters access to the Postal Match who do not own or have access to military type pistols required for the Service Pistol Match.
- Open Match pistols may be revolver or semi-automatic type handgun larger than .22 caliber and smaller than .50 caliber.
- Optical aiming devices such as lasers, red dots, etc. can be attached to the pistol in any manner.
- The Open Pistol Match is an identical course of fire and scoring to the service pistol course listed above.

Course of Fire:

- Two stages with each stage containing one string of slow fire, two strings of timed fire and two strings of rapid fire.
- 10 Rounds, 10 minutes Slow Fire
- Two (2) five-round strings, 20 Seconds, Timed Fire
- Two (2) five-round strings, 10 Seconds, Rapid-Fire
- There will be a pause between the Timed and Rapid-Fire strings for reloading.
- Competitors are required to use empty chamber indicators at all times, except when in their prep period and live fire stages.

Appeals to Marksmanship Committee

The Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson and Match Range Officer are responsible for following the Pistol Match Rules listed in this document.

On Match Day the Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson makes all final decisions regarding any issues that may arise during the match.

To expedite the match and minimize any conflicts a competitor may file an appeal to the Marksmanship Committee after the match.

To file an appeal the competitor must email the Marksmanship Committee, Match Marksmanship Chairperson, and Range office with a detailed explanation of the issue.

Good Sportsmanship is expected of all competitors to remain on time at the sponsored range.

Issues appealed to the Marksmanship Committee will be given a final decision once all Committee members can review the appeal.

Poor Ammunition

On Match Day the Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson can remove a competitor from the match if poor ammunition becomes a safety issue or delays the scheduled time of the match.

Alibis:

- Alibis applies only to the timed and rapid-fire strings.
- A competitor can claim only one alibi in both strings of fire.
- A competitor can only fire one alibi string consisting of the string with the fewest shots down range at the time of the alibi.

Targets:

- Standard NRA B-8 25-yard pistol target

Rules On Malfunctions

A malfunction is the failure of the pistol or ammunition to function properly.

A competitor with a malfunction may complete a series once when a malfunction occurs during the timed and rapid-fire strings.

Malfunctions in Slow-Fire Series

If a competitor has a malfunction during a slow-fire series, they may clear the malfunction and continue firing. They may load additional rounds as necessary to complete the series.

If clearing the malfunction or repairing or replacing a pistol requires additional time, the competitor must notify the Range Officer. After examining the pistol, the Range Officer may award extra time equal to the time required to clear the malfunction or, if additional time is required to clear the malfunction, repair the pistol, or replace the pistol, the competitor may be rescheduled on a different relay to complete the series.

Malfunctions in Timed and Rapid-Fire Series

If a competitor has a malfunction during a timed or rapid-fire series and wishes to claim a malfunction, they must lower the pistol to the "Ready" position and raise their non-shooting arm.

A Range Officer will examine the pistol to determine if the malfunction is allowable or non-allowable.

Failures due to improper manual operation of the pistol by the competitor are non-allowable malfunctions. If the competitor attempts to clear a malfunction, the malfunction is non-allowable.

If the malfunction was on the first shot and there is no round in the pistol chamber, the malfunction is non-allowable (the competitor is responsible for properly loading the pistol).

If the malfunction is allowed, the series may be refired.

Refires of allowable malfunctions in timed or rapid-fire series will be fired as refire series.

In a refire series, the competitor must load and fire five rounds. Any shots not fired in the refire series due to another malfunction or failure to fire must be scored as misses

The target with the original (incomplete) and refire series will be scored by counting the ten (10) lowest value shots, including any unfired shots on the refire series.

If a competitor is not allowed to claim a refire and/or wishes to clear a malfunction and continue firing within the time limit, they may do so; they may load additional rounds as necessary.

Awards

- Awards will be awarded depending on the number of competitors per classification.
- Awards will be distributed for first place High Master, Master, Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman for Individuals and Teams.
- There will be 2nd and 3rd place awards awarded depending on the amount the number of competitors per classification.

Classifications

INDIVIDUAL PISTOL

High Master 570--600
Master Class 500--569
Expert Class 400--499
Sharpshooter Class 300--399
Marksmanship Class 0--299

TEAM PISTOL

High Master 2850--3000
Master Class 2500--2849
Expert Class 2000--2499
Sharpshooter Class 1500--1999
Marksman Class 0--1499

PISTOL TARGETS

The pistol targets to be used are the standard B-8 25-yard match targets as described in the CMP Match Rules. They are 10 X target with an X ring, 10 ring, and 9 ring within the "Bullseye."

Detachments and Units that wish to obtain a catalog of official pistol and rifle targets may contact the following company or any company of their choice.

National Target Company
PO Box 2152
Rockville, MD. 20847-2152

Fax (301) 770-7892
Phone (800)-827-7060

Sanctioned Pistol Match Checklist For PAMCL SPONSORED BY MCL DETACHMENTS

All Department Pistol Service and Open Matches must be sanctioned by Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League and the sponsoring Detachment.

Use the following checklist to have your Pistol Match sanctioned by Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League.

	Approval from Pistol Range sponsor with information for insurance and other costs. Attach documentation
	Pistol range sponsor will have range official(s) available during pistol match. Attach documentation
	Hold Harmless Forms for Pistol Range, Detachment, & Department of Pennsylvania MCL Attach form that will be used customized for your event.
	PA Department of Pennsylvania Insurance coverage approval for Pistol Match. Provide range information and get approval from PAMCL for coverage.
	Pistol Match Flyer with date, time, location, and entry costs.
	Letter from Detachment approving the sponsoring of the Pistol Match.
	Detachment Marksmanship Chairperson will be responsible for following the Pistol Match rules listed in 2025 Pistol Match Information Sheet. Signoff by Detachment Commandant
	To avoid appearance of a scoring conflict with Detachment Commandant; Pistol Range sponsor will certify scores. Signoff by Range Officials.
	Department of Pennsylvania MCL approval of Pistol Match.
	Certify that all MCL member shooters to be in good standing for match Insurance.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DETACHMENT _____ PHONE _____ DATE _____

MATCH CHAIRPERSON _____
PRINT
SIGN

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Disclosure of requested information is voluntary, but failure to disclose all or any part of it may result in denial of permission to participate in Pistol Match activities.

PERSONAL DATA:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

NAME _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

DECLARATION: In consideration of my participation in the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc Pistol Match sponsored by Detachment # _____ in Pennsylvania, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, do hereby waive for myself, parent(s), guardian, executor(s), heir(s), assigns and administrator(s) any and all rights and claims for damages, demands and any other action(s) whatsoever, including those which may be attributable to weather conditions, which I may give against any of the following entities:

- A. Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League.
- B. Any current, past or future member of the Marine Corps League, Board of Trustees.
- C. Any current, past or future Officers of the Marine Corps League.
- D. Any current, past or future members of the Marine Corps League.
- E. Any current, past or future members of Detachment # _____ Marine Corps League.
- F. Range Sponsor for this Pistol Shoot _____
- G. Any current, past or future members and Officers of the Range Sponsoring the Pistol Shoot

Arising out of my participation in this event, including any and all injuries or illnesses suffered by me as a result of my participation in this event or use of any current, past or future Marine Corps League facilities in conjunction with my participation.

This waiver is executed with the awareness that training areas are not designed or maintained with the needs of non-member groups in mind, also that conditions which are potentially hazardous may exist, including, but not limited to obstacles, both natural and man-made, camouflaged as well as visible holes, ditches, trenches and other irregularities in terrain.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

APPLICANT MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING IN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND 18 YEARS OF AGE AS OF THE DATE OF THE PISTOL MATCH.

INDIVIDUAL PISTOL SHOOT REGISTRATION FORM

Detachment _____

LOCATION: _____

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ DATE _____

PISTOL MODEL _____ CAL _____ SIGHTS _____

MCL ID No. Or Active Duty Serial Number _____

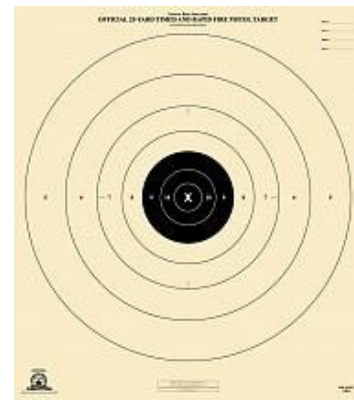
FIRST TIME COMPETITOR [YES] [NO]

Marksmanship Classification

H-High Master / M-Master / E-Expert / S-Sharpshooter / MK-Marksman

CIRCLE
MARKSMANSHIP CLASSIFICATION BELOW

570 – 600 High Master
500 – 569 Master Class
400 – 499 Expert Class
300 - 399 Sharpshooter
000 – 299 Marksmanship



The pistol targets to be used are the standard B-8 25-yard match targets as described in the CMP Match Rules. They are 10 X target with an X ring, 10 ring, and 9 ring within the "Bullseye." Detachments and Units that wish to obtain a catalog of official pistol and rifle targets may contact the following company or any company of their choice.

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PO Box 2152
Rockville, MD. 20847-2152

Fax (301) 770-7892
Phone (800)-827-7060

Detachment Team Registration Form Service And Open Pistol Matches

DET./UNIT _____ TEAM CAPTAIN _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____ DATE _____

Pistol used (If Pistol 1911A1 Or 9MM Beretta) (if Revolver .38 CAL) (Open)

Mark an X if first time Competitor

Marksmanship Classification H-High Master / M-Master / E-Expert / S-Sharpshooter / MK-Marksman

Full Legal Name (No Nick Names) & MCL ID	Pistol Type	1 st Time Competitor	Marksmanship Classification
Team A			
1			
2			
3			
4			
Team B			
1			
2			
3			
4			
Team C			
1			
2			
3			
4			
Team D			
1			
2			
3			
4			

Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League
SCORECARD FOR SERVICE / OPEN / OPTICAL PISTOL MATCHES

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DETACHMENT _____ PHONE _____ DATE _____

Circle One: Service Open Optical

Pistol Model _____ Cal _____ Sights _____

ROUND #1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	X'S	SCORE
SLOW												
TIMED												
RAPID												

X'S ROUND #1 _____ SCORE ROUND #1 _____

SCORER _____ COMPETITORS INITIAL _____

ROUND #2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	X'S	SCORE
SLOW												
TIMED												
RAPID												

X'S ROUND #2 _____ SCORE ROUND #2 _____

SCORER _____ COMPETITORS INITIAL _____

TOTAL SCORE AND CERTIFICATION

X'S ROUND #1 _____ SCORE ROUND #1 _____

X'S ROUND #2 _____ SCORE ROUND #2 _____

I CERTIFY THE ABOVE SCORES TO BE CORRECT

MATCH CHAIRPERSON _____
PRINT SIGN