



Did you notice all the Logos?

If you have been reading the Pistol News issues that have been released in the past month, then you will hopefully have noticed all the logos that have been used in the design of the new newsletter.

It is not per chance that these logos have been used, they have in fact been used to draw your attention to the fact that the SA Pistol Federation is a recognised body within the SA shooting fraternity, and that we play an active part in the organisation of shooting in South Africa.

This newsletter will be used to explain the role that SAPF plays in organised shooting in South Africa, and how we are part of the global shooting fraternity as well – we hope you find it useful....



Pistol News #4
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Let's start at the very beginning...

SA Pistol Federation was originally called the SA Pistol Association, and it has long roots that go back into the early 1960's era of pistol shooting when the association had well over 4,000 active shooting members spread all around the country.

Back in those days I was a 16 year old school boy who learned to shoot ISU events in Carletonville on the West Rand.

The International Shooting Union (ISU) began in 1907, but became the *International Sport Shooting Federation* (ISSF) in 1998. Pistol shooting is a tiny part of the international shooting scene, with Small Bore (.22 Rifle), being the single biggest component of the sport, followed by Clay Pigeon shooting, which has changed its name to become the Clay Target Shooting Federation over time.

Historically the ISSF is the highest level controlling body for all shooting sports globally, and it has sub-committees for each shooting discipline reporting back to the main ISSF Executive committee.

With the change of government in SA in 1994, SASCOC, the *South African Sports Council and Olympic Committee* was borne, and they asked all sporting codes in South Africa to re-structure, so all local bodies were re-formed as federations at the highest level, and associations at local and provincial level.

Other changes also happened at International level, and so regional ISSF bodies emerged, and South Africa became part of the *African Sport Shooting Federation* (ASSF), which then

reported through to the main ISSF body at a regional level.

Of course in the years between 1960 when the *International Olympic Committee* (IOC) was in control of all shooting disciplines worldwide and now, there has been a massive growth in non-Olympic shooting sports, and today we have hundreds of different internationally recognised shooting bodies in operation, all quite independent of the IOC, and NPA, PPC, IPSC and IPDA shooting are some examples of these new non-IOC shooting sports.

Going back to the local scene, within the shooting community in South Africa, further re-organising has taken place, and today there is a separate body called the *Olympic Shooting Committee* (OSC), which governs all local Olympic shooting codes, and the *SA Sport Shooting Confederation* (SASSCO), which embraces all IOC and non-IOC shooting codes. SASSCO reports directly to SASCOC on behalf of the South African shooting fraternity, and all decisions regarding Protea colours, national teams, etc., are dealt with by SASSCO and SASCOC upon recommendations made by the individual shooting codes under SASSCO's wing.

This brief explanation is meant to indicate to SAPF members that with our 400+ members, we are but a tiny speck on the shooting horizon in South Africa, so we cannot act independently of SASSCO and SASCOC.

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