

A Call for assistance from the membership

If you have been attending any Provincial and National Championships this year, then you will have noticed the growth of Air Pistol and Sport Pistol Shooting on the ISSF side in particular, and we at the SAPF Exco are very excited and pleased with this growth.

However, that growth has been severely restricted by the total lack of good target grade air pistols, both new and/or 2nd-hand, and this is cause for concern. It seems the Mr Obama's new international security regulations have caused a major blockage in the flow of Russian and Turkish firearms to the marketplace, and at the moment some SA gun-dealers have had orders outstanding for more than 24 months already, with no sign of new pistols in sight.

This newsletter therefore is a call to our members to help us find and release target-grade air pistols and .22LR target pistols from safes and lock-ups and get them back into circulation again – *we know you can help...*

Why this call for help?...

The SAPF Exco needs to grow the Air Pistol, Sport Pistol, Standard Pistol and Rapid Fire Pistol events in particular in the coming years.

This has become an important goal for us and our members after the recent IOC's Shooting Committee decision to remove the 50-M Free Pistol event from the Olympics with immediate effect – they also removed the .22 Prone rifle and the double-trap events as well in favour of the new Mixed team events.

The replacement pistol event will be a Mixed Air Pistol team event in which a Male and a Female will shoot together as a Team against other two-man teams from all the other shooting countries at the Olympics, (maybe CG Games as well?)

The IOC justifies this decision by saying they want more spectator-value (read TV revenue), events in the future, and of course, there is also a strong demand for more Gender-friendly events, so the IOC has been forced into this decision by political pressures as well.

So getting back to our call for help...

We are asking our SAPF members to help us identify and find any and all possible sources of target-grade air pistols and .22LR target-grade pistols and to declare these as available for sale or for donation to a central pool of pistols that we can then make available to interested shooters, especially Junior and young shooters (under age of 55) who could qualify to travel overseas in SA pistol teams in the future.



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This also highlights the need for all members who are prepared to sell their spare .22LR ammunition to the SAPF for use in the forthcoming coaching and training camps that we will be introducing shortly.

These training and coaching camps are necessary to expand and extend the competitiveness and performance of our competitive shooters, especially those that are be earmarked and groomed for the Shooting Skills training program that is being developed at present.

We need the active support of our members to help us find all possible air pistols and .22LR target pistols that can be sold and re-circulated back into the shooting community for the benefit of our sport.

If you are aware of or can provide pistols for others to buy and use, then this is the time to speak up please – we must locate all available, useful and target-grade pistols urgently.

Please send information to the email address below advising what you have or what you know could be made available.

We might issue a special "gunshop" edition soon to announce what we have located with your help.

Be part of the change that is needed now, do something positive – we need help now please.

Shaun Kennedy Vice President ISSF –
shaunhkennedy@gmail.com or 082 654 9917



*South African
Shooting Sport Confederation*

