

Some Explanatory Notes on Shooting SADPA Classifiers

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1 Introduction

The shooting competence of SADPA members varies widely. To enable members to compete effectively against their peers, shooters are placed into different classes corresponding to their shooting competence.

The tool used to place shooters into classifications for each firearm platform is a Classifier.

SADPA has several Classifiers specified, which are fixed, limited stages, used to measure a member's shooting competence. The results of these stages or 'Classifiers' are then used to place a shooter into an appropriate classification, where he/she can compete effectively against their peers.

The classification levels used are (from most competent to least competent):

Master, Expert, Sharp-Shooter, Marksman and Novice.

The Classifiers are shooting-platform specific. i.e. to compete in a Tier 2 or above match, the shooter must have a valid classification for the specific shooting-platform(s) (handgun, shotgun, rifle, etc.) to be used.

2 Classification Validity

Please refer to Rule 10.5 of the SADPA Rule Book.

A shooter's classification is valid for 12 months from the month either when he/she shot the last Classifier or from the month he/she competed in a Tier 2 or above match.

(Shooting or competing in an appropriate match during March, means that the classification is valid until the end of the following February)

3 Shooting a Classifier

It should be obvious that a shooter's classification must be properly assessed to enable fair competition in higher tier matches.

Shooter 'grand-bagging'¹ or worse, 'sandbagging'², which is cheating, is strongly discouraged!

It is also critically important that any differences in running classifiers between different clubs and areas are minimized so that classifier results are as standardized as possible.

Thus, the requirements for a proper classification shoot include the following:

- a) Although clubs generally schedule a date during the year to shoot classifiers, a classifier can be shot at any time in the year by arrangement with the club.
- b) The classifier stage must be set up strictly according to the classifier diagram. Use of a proper measuring device to set target spacing and shooting distances is mandatory.
- c) The classifier must be shot as a normal stage under the supervision of at least one qualified club SO. However, an SO team consisting of PSO and SSO is preferred.

¹ Grandbagging is the practice of repeatedly shooting the strings of a Classifier on the same day and selecting the best result.

² Sandbagging is deliberately shooting a Classifier badly to be classified into a lower class and competing unfairly against other shooters in that classification.

The responsibility of the SO team is to ensure safety, to control the shoot, operate the timer and record and verify the results. It is the responsibility of the SO team that the classifier results are correctly uploaded to the SADPA website.

- d) The various notes and restrictions in Rule 10.5 of the SADPA Rule Book must be followed.
- e) Under no circumstances are unsupervised Classifiers permitted to be shot and the results recorded on the SADPA website.

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