



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Olympic Shooting at Tokyo

Everything you need to know about Olympic Shooting at Tokyo 2020

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There are 33 sports being contested at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021, and the first medal of the whole event will be won in shooting. That'll be on day one of the Games, 24 July 2021, in the women's 10m air rifle.

But who are the ones to watch? When will the rifle, pistol and shotgun competitions take place? Where will they be held? And what are the new mixed-gender team events making a debut in Japan?

With 300 competitors taking part at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic competition in 2021, there will be plenty of shooting stars to watch in the 15 events.

Pistol shooter JIN Jong-oh of Republic of Korea, the only four-time individual Olympic champ, is already the most successful individual shooter in the Games, and will be favourite to make it five gold medals in his fourth straight Olympics. Meanwhile, German sharpshooter Christian Reitz will be aiming to defend his Olympic title in the rapid fire event.

Olena Kostevych is an air pistol women's world number one, who has won almost everything on offer, including Olympic gold at Athens 2004. Back in action after giving birth, the Ukrainian could compete in three events in Tokyo,



including the mixed team competition. But she could face stiff competition from Manu Bhaker. The Indian won gold at the Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG). She has also excelled in the mixed team events, winning all four titles on offer in the ISSF World Cup series in 2019 with partner Saurabh Chaudhary.

History will also be made by Nino Salukvadze, who will be competing in her ninth Olympics in Tokyo.

In women's rifle events, there are likely to be several new names on the Olympic podium. World champs Seonaid McIntosh from Great Britain and PEI Ruijiao of People's Republic of China will be among the names to watch.

Following the retirement of Italy's three-time Olympic champion Niccolo Campriani, the stage is set for a new winner of the men's rifle three-positions. He'll be keeping a close eye on world number one Petar Gorsa of Croatia, and world champion Thomas Bartnik of Poland.

The Italian has also been helping to train several refugee athletes in their bid to qualify, as can be seen in the Olympic Channel series Taking Refuge.

On the shotgun range, the USA challenge will be headed by two-time Olympic champion Vincent Hancock, who shot a perfect skeet score in the final at London 2012, and looked back to his best at times during qualifying for Tokyo.

Many young shooters will be looking to make a mark on their Olympic debut, including Matthew Coward-Holley. The Briton is world champion in the trap, and was one of the first to be selected for Tokyo 2020 by Team GB, having secured a direct quota spot in qualification.

The shooting events will take place from 24 July to 2 August 2021.

Olympic Shooting competition format at the Tokyo 2020 Games

There are 15 events in the programme for Tokyo 2020, across air rifle, air pistol and shotgun disciplines. Making a debut at the Games in 2021 are three mixed-gender team events, in addition to the six events for men, and six for women.



1985

30

2015

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The rifle and pistol competitions take place indoors, with shooters taking turns to fire pellets from a set distance at a stationary target.

Shotgun competitions take place outdoors and see athletes take shots at a moving clay target (sometimes known as a clay pigeon), that has been fired into the air from a trap at over 100km/h.

During the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, each event will have a qualification phase, with the best performing athletes booking a spot in the semi-finals/finals to compete for the gold, silver and bronze medals on offer for finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall respectively.

Olympic Shooting venue at the Tokyo 2020 Games

Shooting events at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in 2021 will take place at the Asaka Shooting Range, one of the outlying venues away from the centre of Japan's capital city and around 30km from the National Stadium.

The Asaka Shooting Range also hosted shooters at the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, including for the Modern Pentathlon competition. The shooting event of the Modern Pentathlon at the Games in 2021 will take place in the Olympic Stadium.

By the Olympic Channel.

<https://tokyo2020.org/en/news/everything-you-need-to-know-about-olympic-shooting-at-tokyo-2020>

10 Defensive Shooting Terms, Explained

by Frank Melloni

Ok, so you're all set to take that super high-speed, low-drag defensive handgun training course except you only have one problem... you don't speak "gun."

Higher-level training courses often operate under the assumption that you have knowledge of some basic defensive terms. Here's a few to get you up to snuff and have you at the top of your class faster than you can say "Mozambique."

Prepare Magazines: This phrase is used to instruct students to fill their external magazines with ammunition. It is important that it is differentiated from the term "load," as this means to put live ammo into a firearm.

Load And Make Ready: Good instructors like to use familiar and universal terminology. This phrase is standard at USPSA and IDPA matches. Once given this command shooters should insert a prepared magazine, chamber a round, engage external safety (if applicable), and holster the firearm or get it into another prescribed ready position.

Indexing: This is one of my favorites because it's a concept that transcends all forms of shooting. Rifle shooters refer to it as natural point of aim, shotgunners call it pointing, and pistol shooters call it indexing. All it means is to be in a position where presenting your firearm in the target's direction happens instinctively and effortlessly.

Follow-Through: Another term prevalent in all forms of shooting. In defensive pistol shooting follow-through means to keep your trigger pinned to the rear after firing a round, and relaxing all other muscles so that they do not react

to the gun fire. This allows you to take rapid follow-up shots and does wonders for accuracy.

The 21-foot rule: Also known as the Tueller drill, this rule alludes to the fact that nearly all defensive encounters happen within 7 yards or closer. A series of experiments were also conducted by Sargent Dennis Tueller to prove that inside of this distance an assailant armed with a knife is a viable threat. Many shooting techniques were devised around these results.

Point Shoot: Point shooting requires NO use of the sights. A shooter will use their pistol like a shotgun, in which they ignore the sights and only use the outline of the slide or barrel to "aim." Inside of 21 feet, this is more than accurate enough to hit "center of mass." Eliminating the time it takes to form a perfect sight picture can save valuable seconds...maybe even your life.

Shooting From Retention: While closely related to point shooting, it is slightly different. Point shooting requires a complete presentation with your arms fully extended. Retention shooting is best described as what you would do inside of a phone booth (remember those?). Essentially your gun is just inches from your holster; your arms are not and usually cannot be fully extended as you're shooting inside of "bad breath" distances.

Double-Tap: This phrase instructs you to deliver two rounds in rapid succession to the center mass of your target. To conduct this properly, the shooter should barely be using their sights for the first shot and shouldn't be using their sights at all for the second shot. A double-tap shouldn't take more than .25 seconds to perform. Accurate hits revolve around

good index and follow through, and should not be used on targets much further than 21 feet away.

Mozambique or Failure-To-Stop Drill: I have heard probably about a dozen different stories as to why this drill is named after the African nation, to the point that I don't bother repeating any at all. What is consistent, however, is the method in which the drill is performed. The drill starts off as a double tap and then if necessary, a crudely aimed head shot. The idea here is to place the easy shots while the threat is most active to slow them down. If the threat is yet not neutralized they are usually still enough to take the shot on the smaller, higher value piece of anatomy.

Peripheral Vision Loss: This fancy term means tunnel vision. When put under extreme stress the human body narrows its vision field to keep focus on the threat at hand. This leaves you open to a lateral attack by a second assailant. For this reason we always shoot with both eyes open, as well as scanning and assessing our flanks.

Once you're familiar with these basic terms you will be ready to help you hone these skills, as well as the instincts needed to understand when to apply each one. Defensive training can be very challenging, as it not only stresses your shooting ability, but your mind as well. Don't be discouraged, with a little knowledge you can conquer it all and move up the ranks from keyboard commando to range know-it-all in no time!

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/3/24/instructor-said-what-10-defensive-shooting-terms-explained>

International World of Firearms: Update



By John Welch

Two so-called mass-shootings occurred over the last few days in the USA, and as expected, the new regime has immediately targeted (pun intended) firearms. The call by President Biden is that firearms must be controlled. During his electoral campaign he stated that he was opposed to the Second Amendment and that he would not hesitate to introduce legislation to restrict, if not ban, so-called assault rifles.

Unlike the USA, South Africa has, as you are well aware, a strict firearms regime. South Africa's firearm legislation started from about 1695. Originally it was to restrict the quantity of black powder and to ensure that, in the event of conflict in which the state was involved, citizens had firearms and ammunition with which they could defend the country. The licensing regime commenced in the 1930s, when magistrates were empowered to consider license applications and issue licenses. And although many people still say that people of colour were excluded from the licensing process, this is not true. Prior to the Arms and Ammunition Act of 1969 I have personally issued licenses to people of colour. The test for all was the same – you must have been able to show good cause why you wanted and needed a firearm.

Since the advent of the Firearms Control Act of 2000 all has changed in that we now require competency certificates for different classes of firearms and individual licenses for all firearms you possess. There are also serious restrictions on the quantity of firearms, worse of which possibly is that the bureaucracy decides what you want, how many you want, and whether you have the right to defend yourself. So much for democracy and individual rights!

Be that as it may, it seems that Biden is eager to curtail the Second Amendment of the US Constitution. He will, however, face a serious problem in that the Constitution is not that easy to amend and I seriously doubt that the American electorate will allow such an amendment.

The ill-fated United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) currently constitutes the most serious threat against the right of free and law-abiding citizens to possess and use firearms. As I have previously pointed out, the ATT was a means to stop military weapons from reaching unintended destinations by *inter alia* enforcing end-user certificates.

What follows is a summary of the recent World Firearms Sporting Associations (WFSA) meeting:

The current status of the ATT is that it now has 119 States Parties and that financial and reporting compliance continues to be abysmal. Financially, it was noted that the ATT is operating at a -\$627,393 deficit but that the United States already submitted its payment of \$91,291.78 for 2021, indicating that very likely the new administration will re-sign the ATT and possibly even push for full State Party membership.

In terms of reporting, Mr. Baranowski noted that only 56% of States Parties submitted their required annual reports in 2020, continuing the steady decline in compliance with the ATT's terms. It was also noted the establishment of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum at last year's CSP is highly concerning and again stressed the need for associations to work with their respective country's delegations in obtaining as much information as possible about the group in light of the secrecy under which it was created. Again, it was stressed that this group will meet in secret with the purported purpose of discussing and sharing international diversion

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routes and end-user information – a likely precursor to an international firearms user registration.

Mr. Baranowski stressed the importance of member associations attending the ATT meetings and participating in the process. He recognized that in the past, participation was cost-prohibitive for many groups, but that the new online format that has resulted from COVID now allows attendance at no cost other than time. He noted that groups without NGO status can attend these meetings under the WFSA umbrella, and that he is available to support and answer any questions from groups new to the process that require a better understanding of it.

Mr. Baranowski next provided an update on the UN Firearms Protocol. He noted that UNTOC, under which the Firearms Protocol resides, met on 12-16 October. It was reported that approximately 1,100 individuals participated in the meeting and that the majority of the discussions related to firearms focused on creating synergies with other UN firearms initiatives.

Two sections of the report contained concerning calls to action Section 16, which calls on States Parties to keep records for the entire life cycle of firearms, their parts and components, ammunition, import and export permits, transfer information as well as information on possession licenses.

The other section of the report of note is Section 17 which calls for State Parties to train private sector actors involved with the import and export of firearms to assist governments in strengthening border security to prevent and combat theft, loss, and diversion. Mr. Baranowski noted that this section is of particular concern, in that calling for governments to train and involve the private sector in policing firearms transfers is well outside the scope of the Firearms Protocol.

There were two noteworthy side-events during the week. One was sponsored by UNIDIR during which the focus was on marking and tracing firearms while also announcing the launch of their Ammunition Profiling Handbook.

The other side event was sponsored by UNODC and chaired by French Ambassador Jean-Claude Brunet. Mr. Baranowski reminded the group that Amb. Brunet was the former President of the 3rd Review Conference of the Programme of Action, during which he allowed for ammunition to be incorporated into the outcome document over the objection of the United States.

During the side-event, Amb. Brunet continued his push for the establishment of international ammunition control standards, noting that it should be the highest priority for

the Firearms Protocol and relevant UN initiatives to become synchronized and harmonized in including ammunition in their terms.

Next, Mr. Baranowski provided a brief update on the Programme of Action, noting that the Seventh Biennial Meeting, scheduled for 15-19 June will likely be held 26-30 July of this year. It was stressed that this meeting, BMS7, will be the most important meeting of the PoA since its inception, and that with ammunition now incorporated into its terms there will likely be a significant push to establish international standards regulating ammunition during it.

It was noted that these standards will likely be heavily influenced by the work of the Group of Government Experts on Ammunition Stockpile Management (GGE). Mr. Baranowski noted that the GGE has been developing the framework for ammunition regulation at the international level and was expected to release a report at the 2020 UN First Committee meeting, but due to two meetings being cancelled because of COVID the GGE was not able to complete the report in time. The GGE's mandate to continue its work was extended by 10 days at the First Committee, which will afford them the time to complete their report. The report will be submitted at the 76th First Committee meeting in October/November of 2021, but that there will likely be a draft and presenta-

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tion on it during the PoA meeting in July of this year which will likely be utilized to influence the development of international ammunition standards.

Mr. Baranowski noted that for the first time, firearms issues were on the agenda at Geneva Peace Week, which ran from 2-6 November last year. There were several side events held during the week which focused on hunting/poaching and the work of both UNIDIR and IUCN; however, they did not delve into the issues and instead provided a wave-top summary of the work of the groups. While nothing having the potential to impact the firearms community was discussed, the inclusion of the issues in Peace Week is concerning and requires us to continue to monitor and attend the event in the future.

Mr. Baranowski stressed again the necessity for every group to seize the opportunity that COVID has afforded and become involved and participate in the international meetings which are being held online. He also noted that in many of the webinars being held by anti-firearm groups between the major UN initiatives, that the focus appears to be shifting towards public

health. He noted that they are both attempting to link firearms violence against women with COVID and have appeared to have developed a coordinated strategy to attack the firearms industry by comparing its economic footprint with the value that could be derived through investing the money and resources spent on it into the health care and green energy sectors.

M. Silvis provided an overview on the main events taking place within the European Union:

In January, the Council approved a decision with the aim of having an EU-wide approach on end-user certificates. In effect, the EU will soon have a more uniform approach to the export of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition. The Council adopted a decision establishing a set of common features that end-user certificates for the export of SALW and their ammunition will have to respect. The aim of this decision, published in January, is to diminish the risk of arms diversion to illicit or unintended users, create a level playing field and increase clarity for the defence industry and its clients regarding relevant requirements.

In February, the current Council presidency, held by Portugal, proposed that, in accordance with Article 4 of the amended Firearms Directive, the information system that the Member States hold concerning registration of legally held firearms should be subject to the Prüm decision, meaning that authorities in any Member State may automatically search such information in other Member State's databases, without having to go through the various national case-by-case procedures in place today. The system would relate to legally owned firearms and work in parallel with the INTERPOL, Europol and SIS-databases, which contain information about lost or stolen firearms. Additionally, the European Parliament and then the Council adopted the codified text of the revised Firearms Directive, with minor linguistic modifications, in order to specify the content of the provisions of the three amendments of the firearms directive. As IEACS, the matter was followed to ensure that no substantial proposal was put forward on the topic.

In the next weeks, the European Commission will issue a proposal for the revision of Regulation 258/2012 concerning the import,

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

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export and transit of firearms and ammunition to and from the European Union, implementing at EU level art. 10 of the United Nation Firearms protocol. The Commission is now conducting an impact assessment on the EU legislation on controls for imports and exports of civilian firearms and from there proposing ways to, in particular:

- To improve traceability (harmonized import markings)
- To exchange of information between national authorities to avoid circumvention of export prohibitions,
- To increase the security of export and import control procedures of firearms.

All in all, the proposal for revision should mainly tackle import marking obligations and the means of tracing and bookkeeping of data and information on import/export/transit in the EU and will be presented in the first Quarter of 2021. T. Jacobs explained that The EC is currently holding a public consultation on several aspects of sustainable corporate governance to gather opinions with a view to issuing a draft regulation next year. The Commission's objective is to harmonize the existing national legislations, and to introduce new rules in countries or companies who do not have such laws/company governance rules. The proposal covers all industry sectors; yet, a number of sectors are pushing for a more

stringent regulation on those fields that are considered less ethical and sustainable (such as defense/firearms and diamonds production).

He also pointed out that in EU the concept of creating problems for the purposes of granting financial support to the companies that do not respect the ethical principles is growing. It is not only a phenomenon addressed to our sector; but also to other fields, such as for the Italian group, Ferrero (Nutella), now facing issues due to their use of palm oil.

J. Bartozzi presented two interesting reports conducted by the NSSF in the last year:

The first (Att. 1) focused on the 2020 Firearm Industry Consumer Report including the 2019 US firearms industry economic data impact. It also provides a clear view of the NICS evolution with a huge increase in 2020 (more than 50% increase over 2019); rather interesting also to see the data on first times gun buyers and the largest increase of the African American population in 2019 (+54%). Handguns are still very popular with 61% of the US Firearms market. It is also important to underline the increase of the importation of Firearms on the US Market including almost 4 million handguns (+56% over 2019); 1,5 million Shotgun (+100% over 2019).

The second presentation (Att. 2) was also focused on the US market and provided a more detailed identikit of the average buyer, based on the type of use of the firearms (what and why they buy certain products), the purpose of the acquisition and the importance of first-time gun buyers.

F. Goepfer outlined the legislative initiatives that are ongoing at EU level, with the ultimate objective of regulating lead in the production and use of ammunition.

In January, the Regulation amending Annex XVII to REACH Regulation as regards lead in gunshot in or around wetlands (2021/57) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The Regulation entered into force on 15 February 2021, with a transition period ending on 15 February 2023 or 15 February 2024, for those Member States (wetland areas exceeding 20% of the total territory) that intend to propose a total ban on the use and placing on the market of lead gunshots. In the decisive vote, around 42% of the Members of the European Parliament expressed willingness to send back the regulation to the European Commission for a revision. However, this number of votes was not sufficient to reach the 50%+ 1 threshold. The lobbying activities carried out in recent months, in a coordinated effort between the European associations under the

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AFIS platform (AFEMS, FACE, IEACS and SAAMI) and all the national associations and Industries linked to it, have allowed the achievement of a significant result for the sector. Namely, the statement by the European Commission that Member States will be able to map their wetlands, overcoming the problems related to the "wetlands" definition and the possible inclusion of temporary water (e.g. puddles) in the scope of the restriction. The work for the correct national transposition is now ongoing, involving all national associations.

The second item of interest is the newly published Annex XV report of the EU proposal to ban the use and placing on the market of lead ammunition and fishing tackle. The report proposes a total ban on lead gunshot within 5 years (with a possible derogation for sport shooting Olympic and international disciplines) and a differentiated transition period for projectiles small centerfire caliber and rimfire (5 years) and big centerfire calibers (18 months). A derogation for sport shooting will be granted to those shooting ranges that recover 90% of lead. Defense, security-related and indoor uses are currently excluded from the scope of the restriction. The proposal will now be subject to public consultation and then used by the two EC-HA Committees (SEAC and RAC) to develop the opinion of the agency; before passing the ball to the Euro-

pean Commission and the other EU institutions.

The European Shooting Sports Forum - ESSF is now promoting a new cycle of webinars on the subject, and the first meeting was held on March 3rd, by videoconference. J. Baranowski highlighted how the recent approach towards the POA and ATT by the US displays a greater interest for firearms control in the political agenda. While a couple of federal bills are being proposed, a number of different legislations are being promoted in different states, in order to possibly ban the use of lead in ammunition. J. Bartozzi explained that other states are following an inverted trend and are currently discussing the possible relaxation of the gun control measures already in place.

The Canadian situation appears more challenging, as clarified by T. Bernardo. The main concern that the national association is currently facing is a new law (passed) that bans 1,950 types of firearms, mostly tactical rifles. It also bans all firearms of a bore diameter greater than 20mm and any firearms capable of producing more than 10,000 Joules (7375 ft/lbs) of kinetic energy. Another new law (proposed) contains additional limitations adding to the crime of modifying magazines to increase their capacity. This federal bill also contains new "red flag" laws that

would also make it easier for officials to revoke gun licenses.

G. Downing provided participants with a brief report on the situation in UK. The UK Government had launched a consultation on 'Firearms Safety' which had proposed new legislation in four areas:

- Additional home security measures for those possessing high muzzle energy rifles such as .50cal
- Operators of miniature (.22 rimfire) rifle ranges to be required to hold firearm certificates for the rifles
- A new offence of 'Intent to manufacture' unlawfully held ammunition
- Removal of the exemption which permits young people aged 14-17 to use an air rifle unsupervised on private premises

BSSC was comfortable with all except the last of these proposals. It argued that air rifles provided a vital introductory step to shooting sports and was now actively campaigning to support the continued use of air rifles by young people.

The UK shooting associations were still in extended discussions with Government over the nature of medical checks on applicants for a shotgun or a firearm certificate. There had been consultation with the relevant Home Office Minister who had promised that when satisfactory measures to ensure continuous medical monitoring were in

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place, the duration of the shotgun and firearm certificate could be doubled to 10 years.

The EU Lead in Wetlands Regulation had not been published prior to Brexit, so was not applicable to mainland Great Britain. However, as a result of the detail of the Northern Ireland Protocol, it would apply in Northern Ireland, which remained part of the EU Single Market. There were continuing post-Brexit difficulties for the gun trade, for the pet passport and in the movement of firearms between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

As a member of the WFSA Executive, SAGA played a prominent role in these discussions; our main object to prevent negative European Union and British firearm and ammunition initiatives from being introduced here. Since our government has already been talking about restricting or banning lead ammunition and stricter rules for, and more limitations on, the possession of firearms (obviously, nothing in this regard is being done about illicit possession), the firearms community must prepare itself for this potential onslaught. Responsible and safe possession, handling and usage of firearms go a long way to counter government's negative initiatives.