



INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION

The Secretary General

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to inform all National Federations, Industry and interested parties of the proposed new changes to the ISSF Rifle discipline clothing rules and regulations for 2026 onward. Many of you will be well aware of the challenges posed to the discipline by the ever-stiffer rifle jackets, trousers and shoes used by our athletes, with the negative effect this is having on the performance, costs, and sport presentation of the Rifle discipline. We thought it expedient and prudent to give all within the shooting sport family some advance notice of our intentions regarding this important subject.

To mitigate and find a solution to this challenging situation, a Technical Clothing Workshop was held in the margins of the recent ISSF World Cup held in Munich in June. This Workshop was conducted by Chairpersons of the ISSF Technical, Athletes and Rifle Committees, supported by their committee members and other subject matter experts. This included the ISSF Sport and Event Managers. The notes of this Workshop, with a resume of their examination and testing methodology, along with their subsequent findings is attached for your information.

This note clearly articulates the intended solution in mitigating and solving the immediate threat posed to the discipline. The essence of their findings is that current manufactured rifle jackets, trousers and shoes will still be able to be used by athletes from 2026 onward, although some manipulation and adaption may well be required to meet new ISSF Rules and Regulations. Also contained in the note are thoughts and intentions for new clothing testing procedures and technical tolerances to be introduced in 2026. However, work remains to develop and finalise the exact detailed regulations and wording to be incorporated into the new ISSF Rules, due to be introduced 1st January 2026.

We are well aware of the impact and implications such change has for many involved in our Sport, especially athletes and Industry. We wish to ensure all involved within the Sport are aware of our future intentions to safeguard the discipline, especially where the purchase of new clothing is concerned. Please, would you kindly pass this information onto those within your organisation who it affects and applies. We will keep you informed of progress and any changes to this course of action.

Yours sincerely,

Munich, 14 July 2025

Alessandro Nicotra di San Giacomo

ISSF Headquarters

Widenmayerstr. 16 - 80538 Munich, Germany
T. +49 89 544 355 0 - E. munich@issf-sports.org
VAT: DE 129517043 - www.issf-sports.org





ISSF Rifle Clothing Workshop 2025
Munich, Germany
7th June 2025
Bullet Points and Main Discussions
Sport Director - Peter Underhill

1. **General.** This Workshop was a result of the increasing pressure being applied by the ISSF leadership and EXCO to find solutions to the perceived technical advantages being exerted by rifle clothing manufacturers. Principally, this applies to the ever thicker and stiffer rifle jackets, trousers and boots which are leading athletes and our Sport down a road of perceived technical doping. The aim of the Workshop was to test a number of the most prominent manufacturers clothing, evaluate them against existing and intended ISSF rules, and consider what measures should be taken to mitigate this threat to the future of the rifle discipline.

2. Clothing and boots from various clothing manufacturers were tested. Current ISSF rules and testing tolerances were used to test each piece of clothing in three states or conditions; as new fresh out of their purchase boxes, secondly after being cut down to single thickness as appropriate and then lastly after manipulation, to simulate having been worn and “warmed up” (for example for post event re-testing).

3.. **These notes constitute a broad outline of the Workshop activities and key discussions, actions and decisions taken. Detailed wording and statements for ISSF Rules 2026 would follow, along with more intricate explanations and guidance ready for promulgation prior to the 2026 season.**

4. **Background.** All present were aware of the current situation surrounding the increasing influence being exerted on athlete performance by ever stiffer rifle clothing and footwear. The Chair and ISSF Sport Director reiterated that in addressing this issue a two stage would be required;

- Stage 1 (2026-2028): Initial measures to reduce current clothing influence on performance.
- Stage 2 (2029 onward): Review post LA 2028, with more stringent measures if necessary (following detailed analysis and allowing time for industry and athletes to adapt).

The current cause for concern fell into three main areas;

- a. **Performance.** Athletes now at the top of the performance scale in relation to scores. This high scoring is placing the discipline in jeopardy and there is no possibility to technically increase scoring target tolerances. Thus, the only way forward is to find a solution in reducing the impact of clothing on athlete performance.
- b. **Costs.** The costs of this clothing is causing real concern for athletes and their gate keepers at all levels. Costs were prohibitively high for international teams as well as grass root shooters aspiring to elite level. This endangered the growth, as well as the wider well-being of the discipline. This position is just not sustainable in the future and risks reputational damage to the ISSF.



ISSF Rifle Clothing Workshop 2025
Munich, Germany
7th June 2025
Bullet Points and Main Discussions
Sport Director - Peter Underhill

c. **Sport Presentation.** The Image of the discipline was being tarnished and this aspect had been noted and addressed at the highest levels in the IOC, as well as the ISSF leadership. Currently, athletes being unable to walk properly in their sports clothing and the whole image of our athletes encased in suits of iron risks bringing the sport into disrepute.

5. **Rifle Jackets.** After testing of all jackets, the following was agreed and recommended.

a. **Stiffness** Double canvass material to be retained in shoulder area down to the base of the lower shoulder, providing protection and de-risk holding and support to the rifle in the aim. Also, arms to be left as they are, no further alterations or additional rules required. The remainder of the jacket to be composed of only single thickness canvass. For the stiffness test, the following levels of tolerance were agreed;

Areas of Double Thickness: 3.0 mm in 30 seconds

Areas of Single Thickness: 3.0 mm in 15 seconds

(Note: any trim used inside the jacket to help protect athletes from rough edges or excretions along seam lines must be of a cotton or light weight fabric. These to be included in any thickness or stiffness testing. Current jacket models with trim were thought appropriate and not affecting testing tolerances.)

b. **Button Holes:** To increase button overlap tolerance from 70mm to 80mm, to make the jacket less tight fitting against the athlete body, especially in the chest area.

6. **Rifle Trousers.** After testing of all trousers, the following was agreed and recommended.

Double canvass material to be retained in lumbar and lower back area, extending to just below the crutch. Exact measurement for each athlete to be found by folding each trouser leg in half and further dividing the fold, again in half. If the fold is aligned running through the rubber knee protection pad, then the defining line must be above this pad. This measure will provide protection to lower back and hip area, which is of most concern to athlete well-being. Remainder of trousers legs from just below crutch to leg bottom to be of single thickness. For the stiffness test, the following levels of tolerance was agreed;

Double Thickness: 3.0 mm in 30 seconds

Single Thickness: 3.0 mm in 15 seconds

7. **Shooting Boots/Shoes.** Normal sport trainers or shoes that pass the equipment control flexibility shoe/boot test can be used in all shooting rifle positions. In the future, all rifle boots/shoes must allow for an open ankle configuration. There will be no high "Rifle" boots permitted in any of the three rifle shooting positions, these being boots that cover the ankle and extend up the lower leg. Should athletes continue to wish to use specialist shooting boots,



ISSF Rifle Clothing Workshop 2025
Munich, Germany
7th June 2025
Bullet Points and Main Discussions
Sport Director - Peter Underhill

then only the manufactured “Pistol” boot can be worn in the rifle discipline in the future, whether in prone, kneeling or standing positions. The current “Rifle” shoe may continue to be used, as long as the portion of the boot covering the ankle is cut away to expose the ankle. In effect, creating a “Pistol” shoe. The current rules and regulations applicable to shooting shoe equipment control stiffness testing remain extant. No changes.

8. **Shoe Soles.** Should any “rifle” or “pistol” shoe fail equipment testing due to the sole being too stiff and rigid, then the sole of the shoe must be tailored to allow the shoe to naturally flex and pass Equipment Control. The added benefit being that the athlete can walk and have normal podiatry and locomotion as a human being. Thus, ruling out the “walk of the Penguins”.

9. **Kneeling Rolls and Pad Support.** To compensate for the removal of the high element of the “Rifle” shoe, a kneeling roll of unlimited circumference can be used in the kneeling position. However, any kneeling roll used, must ensure that the front end of the shoe and thus the toe of the shoe touches the ground. Furthermore, a pad of a size to be determined, can be used in between the heel of the shoe and the athletes bottom if so required to aid stability.

10. **Re-Checks.** The re-checking of athlete clothing must be more stringent in the future. Since test timings and tolerances are now more relaxed, there is sufficient time to conduct re-checks following qualification rounds.

11. **Presentation.** In addition to the technical and physical measures now to be implemented, jury officials would need to be more stringent in enforcing rules. Only with such a tandem approach will the discipline see a significant change in athlete behaviour during athlete presentations and movement on the FOP. It may well be necessary in the early stages of implementation of these new rules, that juries will need to employ the use of yellow cards more frequently for Penguin walking in finals, especially during athlete presentations.

12. **New Seals.** New equipment control seals and yellow cards will be required for the advent of the 2026 season and the introduction of these new requirements. This to include now seals for shoes. The old athlete clothing seals will become redundant at the end of 2025.

13. **Future Action.** It was further recommended that when the time is right, that the Athlete Committee produce a U-Tube Video to instruct and visualise to athletes and coaches the adaption procedures and self- help methods to be make the necessary adjustments to current clothing. It may be necessary to re-look at World Records in Rifle events, this would require more detailed thought after a period of assessing performance under these new conditions. Lastly, it would be prudent to communicate a message to the shooting family explaining the rationale and reason why all these measures are now required if we are to safeguard the Olympic rifle discipline.



ISSF Rifle Clothing Workshop 2025
Munich, Germany
7th June 2025
Bullet Points and Main Discussions
Sport Director - Peter Underhill

14. **Wrap Up.** The Chair of the Technical Committee thanked all for their efforts on the behalf of ISSF and the Sport. These brief notes to be circulated for awareness and any amendment. Next steps to forward recommendations, as briefly explained here, to the Technical Committee for peer review and subsequently passage to EXCO/Council.

Peter Underhill
Sport Director

7th June 2025