

CHANGES IN THE 2026 CMP GAMES RIFLE AND PISTOL COMPETITION RULES

Update: 30Nov25

Rule 1.4.2 Special EIC Matches. The M17 pistol has replaced the M9 pistol that was previously used in CMP pistol schools.

Rule 1.4.5 League Matches. Match sponsors of Leagues can now sanction their leagues with the CMP. League scores will count for classifications, but not for National Records.

Rule 1.5 & 1.6.3 b Editing changes—no change in content.

Rule 3.6 Competitors with Medical Conditions or Impairments. The authorization for competitors to shoot in a more difficult position has been applied for many years but it was not included in this section of the Rulebook.

Rule 4.4.11 Other Accessories. A rule governing the development of additional special accessories is added.

Rule 4.4.1 e) Targets. The new CMP pistol target is authorized for use.

Rule 4.5.1 Standard U. S. Military Slings. Language in Rule 5.3.2 was moved to this rule and deleted from there to eliminate redundancies.

Rule 4.7.1 Scoring Methods and Standards. The CMP has determined that the previous scoring rule which scored shots according to the bullet diameter being used by a competitor unfairly penalizes competitors who use smaller caliber rifles by effectively making their scoring rings slightly smaller. Starting in 2026, CMP Highpower and Vintage Military Rifle scoring will use a standard .308" bullet hole diameter to score shots so that all competitors will now have targets with the same size scoring rings. To score 5.56mm shots on paper, Scoring Officers will need to have scoring gauges with .223" spindles and .308 flanges.

Rule 5.3.2 Slings. See comment regarding rule 4.5.1 above.

Rule 6.2.3 d) Standard U. S. Modern Military Rifle. The weight limit for these rifles was increased from 7.5 lbs. to 8.5 lbs.

Rule 7.2, Table 8. There is one change in an authorized non-issue scope for the Belgium entry. The prohibition against using M1903 Mk I receivers remains.

Rule 8.2 As-Issued M17 Service Pistol. The CMP has replaced the M9 pistols formerly used in its schools with newer M17 Service Pistols.

Rule 8.2.4 e) Military & Police Service Pistol. M&P Service Pistols will be permitted to have red dot sights in 2026.

Rule 8.3.3 Pistol Targets for As-Issued Pistol Events. The new CMP BEFF and BERC25 center targets are now authorized for these 25 yard events.

Rule 9.5.1 Table 13 CMP Rimfire Sporter Course of Fire. When firing this event on electronic targets, there is now an authorization to combine the Sighting and 1st stage into a single stage with "Five Sighting shots and ten Record shots in 15 minutes.

Rule 11.0 National Records. National Records may now be established in CMP sanctioned competitions as well as in National Matches and CMP Competition Games events.

Annex A – 2026 Achievement Award Scores. The cut scores for CMP Achievement Awards were adjusted based on scores fired in the 2025 National Matches, and in some cases, other matches conducted by the CMP. Almost cut scores were adjusted down this year.