

2021-2024 Rifle Selection Procedures

Rifle Selection Case Book

The following are clarifications of the 2021-2024 Rifle Selection Procedures

Questions About the Ranking Points System

Question: *Can I see an example of how Ranking Points are determined?*

Answer: The Ranking Points are the Average Score Points (the average of the top 5 scores posted over a 1-year period, with at least one score posted within 4 months of a Team Selection deadline) plus the Achievement Bonus Points earned within the last year. For an example, Winnie Winner posts the following air rifle scores in designated ranking matches that count toward a Team Selection to be made in November. Assume Winnie had previously achieved the Threshold score to begin her tracking in the ranking system.

Jun USASNC Day 1: 617.3 – *dropped, not in top 5 scores*

Jun USASNC Day 2: **627.4** – *counts, in top 5 scores*

Jun USASNC Day 3: 621.9 – *dropped, not in top 5 scores*

Jul World Cup: **631.1**, places 1st (earns **2.5 ABP**) – *counts, in top 5 scores*

Jul Domestic Match Day 1: 618.4 – *dropped, not in top 5 scores*

Jul Domestic Match Day 2: **629.8** – *counts, in top 5 scores but did not medal so no ABP*

Aug Intl Match: **630.4**, places 3rd (earns **0.25 ABP**) – *counts, in top 5 scores*

Sep Domestic Match: **628.5**, places 2nd (earns **0.3 ABP**) – *counts, in top 5 scores*

Nov Domestic Match: 625.0 – *dropped, not in top 5 scores*

Average Score Points from Top 5 scores = $(627.4 + 631.1 + 629.8 + 630.4 + 628.5)/5 = 629.44$

Total Achievement Bonus Points (ABP) = $2.5 + 0.25 + 0.3 = 3.05$

Ranking Points = Average Score Points + ABP = $629.44 + 3.05 = \mathbf{632.49}$

Winnie would have Ranking Points of 632.49 at the time of the Team Selection. Winnie would also qualify for the National Team in 2021 as her Ranking Points are over the 2021 NT Qualifying Points of 627.50 for Women's Air Rifle.

Question: *I have high Ranking Points right now. Should I avoid the next competition to protect my ranking?*

Answer: No. Your Ranking Points cannot be hurt by entering more competitions, but it can be helped. Since only the highest 5 scores will be included in your average, there is no risk in entering another match and potentially posting a score lower than your highest 5 scores. You can improve your Average Score Points if in the next competition you post a score higher than one of your previous highest 5 scores, and you can add more Achievement Bonus Points if you win medals in the next competition.

Question: *The weather looks really bad this morning for my smallbore relay. Should I withdraw from the match so I don't post a low score?*

Answer: No. No matter how badly scores are impacted by range conditions, you can still earn ABP by medaling in the match. Also, since only your highest 5 scores count toward your Average Score Points, there is no penalty for posting a low score due to range conditions.

Question: *Are there specific matches that I must shoot to make an Open Team?*

Answer: No. With this system there are no longer mandatory "Selection Matches". This system is designed to allow each athlete to develop a training and competition schedule that best maximizes their performance in the major ISSF competitions. While it is certainly beneficial to shoot many matches, for some athletes it may be more appropriate for their training cycle to skip a match (say, for example, a domestic match held shortly after the Olympic Games).

Question: *With the people who are ranked ahead of me going to the World Cups and having the opportunity to earn World Cup ABP to boost their Ranking Points, how can I break into this system? Won't the pipeline be blocked?*

Answer: This system is designed to be under the control of the athlete and to reward the athlete who maintains continued competitive excellence.

- Any athlete can break into the system by shooting higher scores.
- Entry onto the National Team is no longer blocked by the Top 3 athletes from a Selection Match; any athlete who meets the NT Ranking Points will be on the NT and eligible for NT support regardless of how many other athletes are ranked higher.
- Since high scores that count toward the Average Score Points and most Achievement Bonus Points are only good for 1 year, and since the Match ABP are limited to the best five only, athletes who fail to maintain high scores and who are no longer medaling in matches will drop in the rankings. New rising athletes who are in the pipeline can jump up in the rankings by posting higher scores and medaling in recent matches.

Question: *I'm not ranked at the top. Does that mean I'll never get to compete internationally?*

Answer: This system is designed to better place athletes into competitions that are more appropriate to their current skill level and to help them develop into high achievers. While World Cups may not be the appropriate level for athletes with lower Ranking Points, there are certainly many other international opportunities that may be available to these athletes. Additionally, the ranking system is only used for automatic bids to international competitions; any declined or open slots revert to "development" slots and may be filled with lower ranked athletes.

Questions About the Average Score Points

Question: *The competition was a three-day aggregate match. How many scores can I count toward my Average Score Points?*

Answer: If each day was a full ISSF course of fire (60-shot air rifle or 3x40 smallbore), then each day would count as a separate score to enter into the Average Score Points. A three-day aggregate match would count as three separate scores toward the Average Score Points.

Question: *I shot well on one day of a two-day aggregate match and poorly on the other day. Since this was an aggregate match, do I have to keep both scores as a pair to count toward my Average Score Points?*

Answer: No. Each individual ISSF course of fire is treated separately, regardless of how many courses of fire are included in an aggregate match. You can count any score that is in your top 5 and discard any score that is not in your top 5.

Question: *The competition was structured so that finals points were added onto my qualification score. Can I use my total score with the finals points as one of my top 5 scores in my Average Score Points?*

Answer: No. Only ISSF-course-of-fire qualification scores are used to determine the Average Score Points. Any finals points or other finals results that determine medal winners would factor into the Achievement Bonus Points instead.

Question: *The Winter Airgun match was held twice within the same 1-year window (say, for example, in January and then again in December of the same calendar year). Can I count the scores from both Winter Airgun matches?*

Answer: Yes. As long as both are within the 1-year window, both scores are representative of your current skill level.

Question: *I shot in a designated ranking match that finished on August 18th this year that is one of my top 5 scores. When does this score no longer count as part of my Average Score Points for ranking?*

Answer: Scores are valid for 1 year and are dropped at the end of the month in which they were achieved, so this score will drop off either the last day of August of the following year, or when 5 other scores that are higher get posted, whichever comes first.

Questions About the Achievement Bonus Points

Question: *The competition included three courses of fire. Can I earn Match Achievement Bonus Points for every day?*

Answer: Match ABP are awarded based on how each individual competition awards overall medals. If the competition is run as three separate matches, with medals awarded after each day with no 3-day aggregate medals, then ABP can be earned after each day. If awards for the competition are given for the 3-day aggregate match, then ABP will be earned once at the end of the three days.

Question: *Are Match Achievement Bonus Points awarded based on the qualification score ranking, the Finals ranking, or a combination of qualification score + finals points?*

Answer: The Match ABP are awarded based on how each individual competition awards medals. If medal winners are determined from qualification scores only with no final (as in the 2020 WAG), ABP will be awarded from the qualification score ranking; if the medal winners are determined by finals results only (as in World Cups), then ABP will be awarded from the finals ranking regardless of the ranking from the qualification round; if medal winners are determined by the qualification score

plus finals points earned in the final (as in some USAS matches), the ABP will be awarded from the ranking of the qualification scores plus finals points.

Question: *The match had both Open and Junior Finals, and I qualified for both of them. Can I count my placing in the Junior Final for Match Achievement Bonus Points?*

Answer: No. Match ABP are only awarded for placing in the Open category.

Question: *In an air rifle match that mixed men and women together, I finished 5th overall but was the highest scoring male and received the 1st place Men's award. Do I get Match Achievement Bonus Points for this award?*

Answer: No, Match ABP are only earned for the overall awards as defined by the competition, not for awards in categories. If the match is not split into separate Men's and Women's events and the overall awards are given without regard to gender, the overall medal winners earn the ABP without regard to gender.

Question: *I earned Match Achievement Bonus Points in more than the best 5 matches that I'm using for my Average Score. Do I get to keep the ABP from all of them or only from 5 of them?*

Answer: You would keep the 5 highest Match ABP that you earned through placing in matches over the last year. These highest 5 Match ABP do not have to be from the same matches that you used for your Average Score Points.

Question: *Over the last year I won medals in 3 World Cups, won medals in 2 designated international matches, won medals in 3 designated domestic matches, set a new ISSF World Record, shot a score higher than the World Record in a domestic match, and got ranked 5th in the world by the ISSF. How many of these Achievement Bonus Points can I use toward my ranking?*

Answer: The total ABP that can be earned would be the 5 highest Match ABP plus all other ABP earned. In this example, you would keep the 5 highest Match ABP earned out of the 8 matches in which you medaled regardless of the type of match, plus the ISSF World Record ABP, plus the Equivalent World Record ABP, plus the ISSF World Ranking ABP. Note that as the oldest of your 5 Match ABP drops off after one year, the highest Match ABP from one of the other 3 matches would replace it.

Question: *I have already earned Match ABP from 5 matches this year, so is there any incentive to shoot in the upcoming domestic competition since I can't add a 6th Match ABP to my Ranking Score?*

Answer: Even though these ABP that you would earn by medaling in the upcoming domestic competition may not count toward your current ranking (if it will not be one of your highest 5 ABP in the last year), these ABP are still valid for 1 year up through the end of the month in which they were obtained. As soon as your oldest (1 year old) ABP drops off, these new ABP will then count. By continuing to accrue Match ABP you can ensure that your Ranking Points will always include the maximum of Match 5 ABP as the older Match ABP roll off.

Question: *I earned Achievement Bonus Points for shooting a score in a domestic match that was over the current World Record. I just broke my own record again. Do I get to double up on those Equivalent World Record Score ABPs?*

Answer: No. However, by shooting another score over the World Record, you will be able to extend those Equivalent World Record ABP for a year from the date of the new score.

Question: *My Mixed Team won a medal at a World Cup. Do we both get Match Achievement Bonus Points for those medals?*

Answer: Yes, if it was an Air Rifle Mixed Team event in an ISSF World Cup, World Championship, or in the Olympic Games. The total Match ABP would be split between the two team members (for example, if the Mixed Team wins at the World Championships, the 4 ABP would be split equally, with 2 ABP going to each member of the team). However, if it was a Smallbore Mixed Team event, then no ABP would be awarded as this is not an Olympic Games medal event.

Question: *My 3-Person Team won a medal at a World Cup. Do we all get Achievement Bonus Points for those medals?*

Answer: No. ABP are only awarded in events that are listed as Olympic Games medal events. Currently 3-person teams are not included in the Olympics.

Question: *I won the World Championship in Prone. Do I get Achievement Bonus Points for that Gold Medal?*

Answer: No. ABP are only awarded in events that are listed as Olympic Games medal events. Currently the Prone event is not included in the Olympics. ABP would also not be awarded in any other ISSF World Championship event that is not included in the Olympic Games, such as 300-meter events or Target Sprint.

Other Questions

Question: *The NT and NDT Qualifying Ranking Points are reset every other year on January 1 to new values. It's possible that the Points needed to qualify will increase enough that I may be on the National Team on December 31 based on the old values and then off the National Team on January 1 based on the new values. Will there be a grace period for me to raise my Ranking Points up to the new higher NT or NDT level?*

Answer: The Fall/early Winter season acts as a grace period. The last World Cup of the two-year cycle is typically held in late summer so the next year's NT and NDT Qualifying Points will be known well in advance. However, the new NT and NDT Qualifying Points would not go into effect until January 1.

Question: *What are some valid reasons for claiming an extended-break-from-competition waiver?*

Answer: Athletes may require an extended break from competition for reasons such as pregnancy, surgery, injury recovery, educational pursuits, military deployment, a pre-arranged break in coordination with the National Coach as part of a comprehensive training plan, or other extenuating

circumstances. The intention of this waiver is to ensure that an athlete is not penalized for taking a valid extended break and to expedite the athlete back into the system after the break.

Question: *What are some examples of “other” domestic and international matches that may be designated as ranking competitions?*

Answer: Not all registered matches count toward ranking. To count toward ranking, an event must be a major, significant match with a high level of competition and listed as a Designated Ranking Competition. Some examples of “other” matches may include the H&N Cup (Bavarian Airgun Match), the Suhl Junior Cup, the CMP Dixie Double, the USAS Winter Airgun, and similar matches.