



OLYMPIC CARTRIDGE PISTOL TRAINING IN GREAT BRITAIN BRIEFING NOTE FOR PROSPECTIVE SHOOTING ATHLETES

BACKGROUND

You will probably be aware that the Home Secretary has agreed in principle to allow cartridge pistol training in England and Wales for those aspiring to compete at the Olympic Games in 2012. However, to ensure public safety, the Home Office will impose certain conditions on this activity. The first is that all cartridge pistol training will be administered by British Shooting, and access to cartridge pistols will be strictly limited to those genuinely attempting to achieve Olympic Games selection. The second is that all cartridge pistol shooting will take place on specifically approved Ministry of Defence ranges.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

British Shooting will run Olympic Training Squads for each cartridge pistol event (50m Pistol, Rapid Fire Pistol and 25m Pistol), but these will be limited by available resources to a maximum, subject to selection, of around 6 to 8 athletes per event. British Shooting will select athletes from the Olympic Training Squads to represent Great Britain at international competitions and ultimately, subject to British Olympic Association agreement, at the 2012 Olympic Games.

At the next level down, there will be a number of regional Cartridge Pistol Training Centres (CPTCs) across the country, each located at a suitable Ministry of Defence range and based wherever possible on existing regional squad arrangements. British Shooting will appoint Range Conducting Officers and Coaches to run training sessions at these CPTCs. They will also run a number of selection shoots to allow athletes to compete for places in the Olympic Training Squads.

SO WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO GET SELECTED FOR THE OLYMPICS?

The first stage is to be selected to attend the training sessions at one of the regional CPTCs. This selection process will be run centrally by British Shooting as every prospective cartridge pistol shooter will have to be approved in advance by both the Home Office and their local police. British Shooting will select athletes who are demonstrating both commitment and performance. Commitment means a willingness, if selected, to put in the training necessary to achieve Olympic standard. Performance means results achieved in national-level air pistol competitions.

Our advice to all prospective Olympians in any of the cartridge pistol events is to train regularly with an air pistol – this is the best possible type of training for any Olympic event. Then enter as many shoulder-to-shoulder competitions as possible, particularly those run under the auspices of the NSRA or the BPC. Be assured that British Shooting will be scouring the results lists of these competitions for new talent.

Also look out for further information on the British Shooting, BPC and other web sites.