



Clarifications and Interpretations

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Question: What is the definition of “Anatomically Formed” **as applied to air rifle** pistol grips and cheek pieces?

Answer: The intent of the prohibition against "anatomically formed" pistol grips or cheek-pieces on air rifles is to prevent shaping the cheek-piece to fix the location of the face or cheek or to use finger grooves to similarly fix the location of the trigger hand. To be in compliance, the main body of the cheek-piece and the forward part of the pistol grip must have straight-line surfaces. Any curves or shaping to fix the cheek/face or trigger hand location would be illegal.

Since the purpose of putting a rubber band, hair scrunchie or other detectable feature on the cheek-piece is to provide a guide for fixing the location of the head, such additions are illegal. Placing a mole skin or other material on the length of the cheek-piece would not, violate this rule. However, placing some kind of material on the pistol grip for the purpose of providing “increased grip” would violate 7.4.2.6.

Grinding or modifying the pistol grip is OK and long as the basic lines of the pistol grip are straight and do not become shaping that is used to fix the hand location. Best practice would be to avoid any additions or modifications to the cheek-pieces or pistol grips because, determining anatomical formation is very subjective interpretations by officials will not have 100% consistency. It will be best to develop techniques to fix the cheek-face and trigger hand locations that do not depend upon special devices or modifications.

For NCAA coaches/officials to enforce these rules, it is important to understand the intent of the rule and be reasonable in applying the rule. The NCAA coach, match official or Jury Member must ask, “does the modification or addition serve to assist the athlete in fixing the location of the cheek/face or hand?” If yes, then it is illegal. If no, then let it go.

Applicable rules:

7.4.2.2	A thumb hole, thumb rest, palm rest, heel rest and spirit level are prohibited. A heel rest is any protrusion or extension on the front or side of the pistol grip designed to prevent the hand from slipping. The pistol grip, cheek-piece or lower part of the stock may not be anatomically formed.
7.4.2.6	Material that gives increased grip may not be added to the fore-end, pistol grip or lower part of the stock.

Examples of violations/non-violations:

Nonviolation (possibly)



Nonviolation if all the areas next to the red lines are straight lines and it looks like they are. Nonviolation if the area in yellow, commonly referred to as the “palm swell” is not so large it becomes an index for the hand or a support for the hand. In the photo, pay special attention to the top part of the wood putty under the area of the trigger finger to assure it is not a place to lay or support the trigger finger or that part of the hand. The thumb is permitted to lay on the rear portion of the pistol grip.

Nonviolations:



Violation: (finger groves)

