



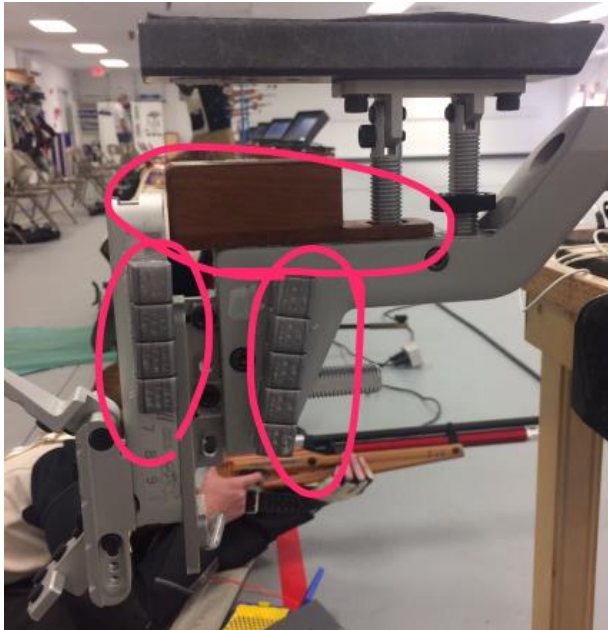
Clarifications and Interpretations

By Newt Engle, Secretary-Rules Interpreter, Rifle Rules Committee

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Question: What weights are legal and where can they be placed on the air rifle?

Discussion/Answer: There is indeed a lot of confusion on the issue of weights on air rifles. The intent of the rule for attaching weights to wood and aluminum stocked air rifles is to keep the weights as close to the fundamental design/shape of the stock as practical. For instance, the weights in this photo are fine.



But if the wheel weights were stacked up one on top the other coming out from the rifle laterally (like an outrigger on a boat), the intent becomes clear. Sticking weights out from the side of the rifle may indeed create an advantage, and thus are illegal.

For the NCAA, I have defined the fundamental shape of a stock as being a virtual box 40mm to either side of the centerline of the buttstock (just like the cheek piece), and no lower than 140mm from the bore line. The forearm is defined as 60mm wide (30mm either side of the bore line) and 120mm deep. Within these virtual dimensions, weights may be applied (staying in compliance with section b). Barrel weights are pretty self-explanatory.

I certainly do wish “taping” would have been better defined. Again, the intent of the rule is to prevent taking electrical tape, duct tape or similar tape and wrapping it around the buttstock to

secure weights. But even USAS is going to permit this (wrapping) with the understanding it will not be acceptable for USAS teams like the NDT or junior teams traveling abroad. That said, “taping” is legal for NCAA matches. The intent of the rule was never to prevent the use of neat looking double-faced tape to attach weights like wheel weights. However, the rule was intended to promote a clean and safe appearance to the sport.

Applicable rule:

7.4.2.7	Weights (Air Rifle) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Barrel weights within a radius of 30 mm from the center of the barrel are permitted. Barrel weights may be moved along the barrel;b) Any devices or weights projecting downward or outward (laterally) from the butt-stock are prohibited;c) Any devices or weights projecting forward or laterally from the lower part of the butt plate are prohibited.d) A weight may be attached to any part of the rifle, but the weight must be within the fundamental shape of the stock (weights cannot protrude out from the stock); ande) Taping of any kind may not be used to attach weights to the rifle. <p>USAS 7.4.2.7e, In USAS sanctioned competitions, tape may be used to attach additional weights to the rifle. Athletes making any USAS teams will be expected to comply with this rule before any travel with the team.</p>
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Examples of violations/nonviolations: