



Rules Interpretation
By Newt Engle Rifle Rules Interpreter, Rifle Committee
October 24, 2023

USA Shooting Rules Reference:

Rule 7.4.2.2.d – Weights must be rigidly attached to the rifle by semi-permanent means so that they cannot be accidentally dislodged or move position. The use of any type of visible adhesive tape to attach weights is prohibited.

Athletes are reminded that the image of athletes and their equipment, when being broadcast or photographed, must be in keeping with the presentation of an Olympic sport. Therefore, rifles and attachments should not look as if they are held together with adhesive tape, cable-ties, or other temporary means. A large cluster of lead automobile wheel-balance weights is unsightly and inappropriate and should be concealed or avoided. Manufactured meta weights, firmly attached to the rifle within the permitted areas as shown on the diagram, are acceptable.

NCAA Rules Interpretation:

For the 2023-24 regular season, please use the following criteria when interpreting USA Shooting Rule 7.4.2.2.d:

- For NCAA matches wheel weights may be used so long as they are:
 - **Semi-permanently attached** so that they cannot be accidentally dislodged or move position.
 - The use of any type of **visible** adhesive tape to attach weights is prohibited.
 - Wheel weights may be used provided they are adequately taped or secured to the rifle and
 - If tape is used, the tape must not be visible.
 - If wheel weights are used, they must not be visible.
 - Tape on concealed weights must not look like they are about to fall off.
 - A suggested option would be to use printed plastic covers/boxes.

The intent of this rule is to replace wheel weights with pieces of metal that are secured to or semi-permanently attached to the rifle. For some member institutions, full compliance with this rule will not be a problem. For others, strict enforcement can be quite problematic. Therefore, for the regular season matches I suggest we all make every effort to comply with the rule.

By providing adequate notice now and using regular season competition as a transitional period, the expectation is by the 2024 NCAA qualifiers and during the 2024 NCAA Rifle Championship that all institutions will be compliant with Rule 7.4.2.2.d. It is highly recommended that all rifles be compliant as soon as possible, but it is understood that it may be a challenge for some institutions which is why adequate notice is being provided at this time. Wheel weights taped to a rifle or wheel weights in a plastic box taped to a rifle will not create a competitive advantage. However, forcing someone to pry wheel weights off their rifle at the beginning of a match may give the opposition a competitive advantage in the interim.

I remain available if you have any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me (mengle@uakron.edu).

Newt Engle
NCAA Rifle Rules Interpreter