



BUTTON TIGHTNESS GAUGE INSTRUCTIONS



Applicable rule: 7.5.4.2 (2026 new version)

Closure - Closure of the jacket must be only by non-adjustable means e.g. buttons or zippers. The jacket must not overlap more than 100mm at the closure (see Jacket diagram). The jacket must hang loosely on the wearer. To determine this, the jacket must be capable of being overlapped beyond the normal closure **by at least 80mm**, measured from the centre of the button to the outside edge of the button hole. The measurement will be taken with the arms at the sides. A measurement must be made with an overlap gauge with a tension of **6.0kg to 8.0kg**. The area surrounding the button hole is limited to a maximum of 12mm, and this area may exceed the permitted 2.5mm thickness. A maximum number of **five (5) buttons** is allowed to close the jacket.

NOTE: An 80mm overlap requirement is to make the jacket less tight-fitting against the athletes' body, especially in the chest area. Buttons can be moved towards the edge of the jacket to comply with the 80mm overlap. If, however, there is insufficient material to allow this movement, it is permitted to extend each buttonhole by using strong cord or laces to form a loop into which the button can be fastened.

Four NewtNotes:

- The old rules required a 70mm overlap and this is how our button checkers have been designed. We need to modify the button checker to measure an 80mm overlap.
 - To comply with the new 2026 rules, you may check your jackets with the old button checker and then move your buttons 1cm to loosen the jacket.
- I have been able to work with several "Precise" button checkers and have noticed slight differences in the dimensions of the button checkers. Some of the forks are machined out of a solid piece of steel, and some have the "fork" welded to the base. I believe all are "close" to the same, but some can easily vary up to +/- 5mm.
- The ISSF still suggests doing pre-competition checking with the gauge set on 6.0kg tension and post-competition checking at 8.0kg tension.
- Note in the rule above, the new 5 button rule. I have been told you can have 6 or more buttonholes, and 6 or more buttons, but only 5 buttons are permitted to close the jacket. Avoid the concealed violation DQ and do the right thing.

I remain available if you have any questions

Newt Engle

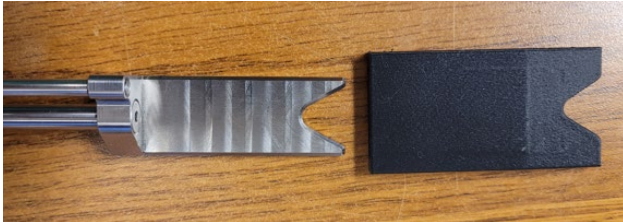
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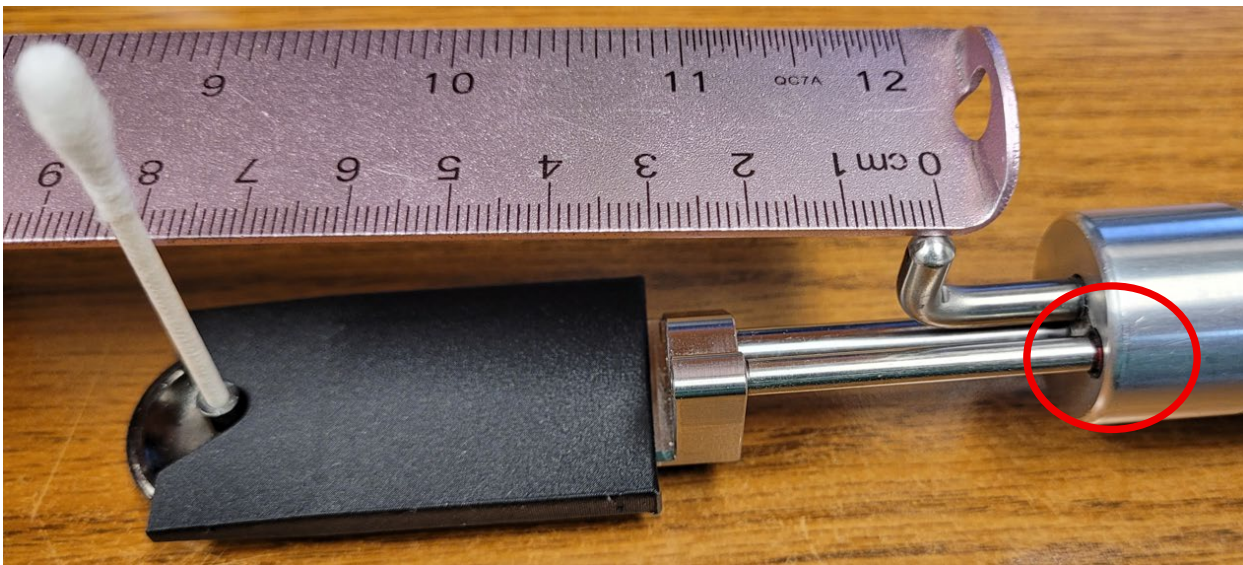


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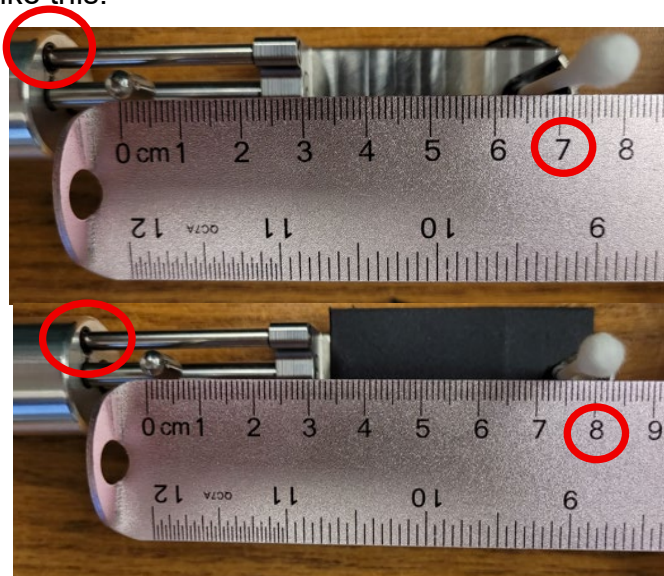
The adapter is printed with a new 3D carbon fiber filament, making it almost indestructible. The adapter is designed to slip over the existing fork. Do to the differences in the devices, the adapter is designed to fit a little loose. To keep it from falling off, wrap the forks with piece of tape till it fits snugly. Or you may apply a drop of glue to hold it in place. Make sure the adapter is pushed all the way on the fork. The bottom edge is slightly away from the base to allow room for the welded forks.



If you take the spring plunger all the way out, (careful not to lose the spring or bushing) and slide the fork in till the red line is barely showing, your unmodified button checker should measure 7mm from the hook to the center of a button. With the adapter in place the measurement should be 8mm. I measured this way. (below) The numbers appear off because of the camera angle.



From above the measurements should look like this:



The adapter is thin enough to allow full contact with the button.

