

United States International Muzzle Loading Team



Guide Book

***Revised
2011***

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL MUZZLE LOADING COMMITTEE PLATFORM

The purpose and goals of this organization shall be:

- To recruit from among residents of the United States of America, and select through a series of USIMLC sanctioned try-out procedures, shooters of the highest possible proficiency in the use of antique muzzle loading firearms, or replicas thereof, whose numbers shall form the United States International Muzzle Loading Team (USIMLT) for the purpose of participating in international championship competitions of the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee (MLAIC);
- To be the governing body of, and to provide guidance for, the USIMLT in all of its activities and functions, including establishment of governing rules and policies;
- To accept donations of gifts and funds and to establish rules and procedures to ensure that such donations or gifts are utilized for the benefit of the USIMLT;
- To encourage muzzle loading shooting with a view toward developing a high proficiency in the use of antique muzzle loading firearms, or replicas thereof;
- To discourage any alteration which negatively affects the historical value, details and character of these arms;
- To develop historical research on antique muzzle loading firearms and historic shooting methods; and
- To develop a positive public attitude towards muzzle loading shooting.



HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

Our “Mother Organization,” the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee, was formed in 1971 at Vaudoy-en-Brie, when the French took the initiative to arrange the first international championship. Prior to this time, many European nations were competing among themselves with muzzle loading firearms, but never on an international scale. Present at the founding meeting of the organization were Great Britain, Germany, Italy, France and, from the United States, Jim Briggs of Indiana, our very first U.S. Chair. Without Jim’s assistance, we would later have been unable to form the first official U.S. Team.

The first M.L.A.I.C. World Championship was held the following year, 1972, with 32 shooters from Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain participating. Each year the number of participating nations grew and the competition became more intense. Meanwhile, Val Forgett, Don Malson and Jim Briggs continued their efforts to put together a group of U.S. shooters to enter the competition. Finally, in 1976, an official United States team was born and competed for the first time at a World Championship. Appropriately named “The Bicentennial Squad,” this group of 27 men and women turned in an exemplary performance, setting two new world records and winning the coveted grand aggregate cup, the “Grand Prix de Versailles.” Japan also entered the competition in 1976, and the total number of shooters grew to 176. The organizational meeting of the United States International Muzzle Loading Committee, with the responsibility of fielding a team of the best possible muzzle loading shooters for M.L.A.I.C. competition, was held prior to the 1976 championships. This, then, was the beginning of what is now known as the United States International Muzzle Loading Committee (U.S.I.M.L.C.).

Today this Committee is selected by the USIMLC Veteran’s Corps in an election held every two years on the odd year. From within that elected group of men and women the Committee elects a

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The duties of the Committee remain constant: to ensure the best possible U.S. team selection and to aid in raising funds to send the team to the World Championships.

From the time of the first final tryouts in 1976 on a small farm in northwest New Jersey, the U.S. team has grown in both size and proficiency in muzzle loading competition. Regional qualifications are held throughout the country to allow the best marksmen and women an opportunity to be invited to final tryouts. The time and location of these tryouts is chosen and announced by the USIMLC Chair. Final tryout competition for positions on the official team is held shoulder-to-shoulder every two years, with every participant firing the course twice in each event for which they have qualified and the scores averaged. Those winning positions compete in one World Championship and one Zone Championship. For further information regarding how to try out for the U.S.I.M.L. team, see our website: www.usimlt.org.



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A COMPETITOR

- Keep yourself, your firearms and your equipment in winning order. This has been known to gain valuable points and make the difference between being in the medals or not.
- Keep your uniforms in good condition and to be in the appropriate uniform dress at all times. You represent our country.
- Keep the squad officers aware of as many of your practice scores as possible and to communicate with them regularly.
- File your required paperwork promptly.
- See that your firearm(s) pass inspection at the World Championships. If there is a problem, have it corrected.
- Be sure you are where you are supposed to be at the correct times when traveling to, during, or returning from the World Championships. Others are responsible for you, and this will be an important but easy courtesy to them.
- Support all of our American team members. We are a team, and team support wins points!
- Know the MLAIC rules. Ignorance of them is no excuse for breaking them. These are available and up-to-date on the MLAIC website, www.mlaic.org, and should be copied and printed out so that you always have a quick reference at hand.
- Do not engage in any form of negative conduct while participating as a member of the USIMLT. Particularly when we are traveling abroad, we are looked at closely by others and do not wish to be classified as “ugly Americans” because of our behavior.

DRESS CODE

When we hear the term “dress code” we usually think of schools. However, because the U.S. International Muzzle Loading Team is representing its country, it is important that we also have a code of dress that is followed by all. We are functioning as a team, and since we entered MLAIC competition in 1976, we have been the nation to set the standard for all others. We wish to continue to not only be, but also to present ourselves as a cohesive and organized group, which is the reason for the following dress code.

- **Formal Dress Uniform:** Worn for team photographs, the final banquet/dinner at World and Zone Championships, and at any other times prescribed by the USIMLT Team Captain. This consists of a navy blue blazer for both men and women, worn with a plain white shirt, grey trousers (women may also choose to wear a grey skirt instead), and the appropriate neckwear. Men will be issued one team necktie free of charge, and women will be issued one of the current ladies’ ties/scarves, etc. If this item is lost or traded, it will be necessary for the competitor to purchase any additional ones issued. Shoes, for both men and women, should be black. No personal substitutions for any part of the uniform will be permitted.
- **Informal Uniform:** Worn for opening parade and awards and at any other times prescribed by the USIMLT Team Captain. This may consist of a complete warm-up/track suit or, dependent upon the weather, a pair of casual navy blue trousers and white team-issued polo shirt, and a team-issued baseball cap, again as prescribed by the USIMLT Team Captain.

- Shooting: Your comfort when shooting is the most important thing to keep in mind in regards to what you wear. Therefore, there is no dress code in this area other than to use some personal discretion.
- Travel: Here again, dress comfortably, using some personal discretion, and keeping in mind that when we travel in a group such as this, we are still ambassadors for our country. Sadly, with the political climate being what it is today, we have been advised that it is probably unwise to “advertise” who we are by wearing clothing with “U.S.A.” on it, so save wearing your “U.S.A.” track jacket for when we are at the shooting range.



MEDALS, LONGEVITY PINS, NAME PLATES

- Upon becoming a member of the U.S. Team, you will be issued an embroidered brassard to wear on the left upper pocket of your dress blazer, near the pocket top. This medallion is a permanent part of your dress uniform and must never be traded.
- Longevity pins, awarded for length of service as a competitor at intervals of five years, are to be worn above the left upper pocket of your dress blazer, centered over the brassard.
- Name plates, if issued, are to be placed on the right side of your blazer at the same level as the top of the brassard. If you hold a staff position, a separate plate telling your position, should be placed $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the name place, also centered.
- A Distinguished medal is the ultimate award for any competitor winning first, second or third place in an individual event in a World Championship. The medal is placed on the right side of the blazer, centered about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch beneath the name plate. A Master's medal is awarded to any competitor winning first, second or third place in an individual event in a Zone Championship. It is also centered approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch beneath the name plate on the right side of the blazer. If you are the winner of both medals, they are to be placed side by side, with the Distinguished medal to the left of the Master's medal.

SUPPORT STAFF



Just as important as the shooting segment of our team is the support segment. These wonderful people fulfill endless responsibilities to help the competitors do their jobs of winning medals, and we could not do without them! Some of the many jobs they do include those of armorer, medical staff, statistics and scoring, security, publicity and fund-raising, photography, transportation, and spotting. However, they can be depended upon to assume virtually any duties assigned them.

- The formal dress uniform of our support staff is basically the same as that of the competitors: navy blazer, grey trousers or skirt and white shirt or blouse. Team neckties and ladies neckwear is not issued to support staff, but they are free to choose any type of patriotic neckwear they wish (red tie, scarf, etc.). It is not a requirement that they wear a formal dress uniform, but many choose to do so.
- The informal uniform consists of a team-issued beige U.S.A. polo shirt like the white ones worn by the competitors. This is to be worn with navy blue casual trousers, and may be worn at the shooting range and/or at the parade, if the staff member chooses to walk in the parade with the team.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Every team member – both competitors and support – are required to sign a Code of Conduct before traveling to a World Championship event. Fortunately, there have been very few times when it has had to be enforced. It is, nevertheless, a necessary document and is a reminder to all of us that we are representing both our country and our team as a whole, and our behavior should reflect that at all times. A generic copy of the Code of Conduct form is included in this booklet.

MEDICAL FORM

All those traveling with the U.S. Team to a World Championship are also required to complete a medical form giving our medical staff information about their health, medical conditions they may have about which it would be important for the staff to be aware, prescribed medications being taken, etc. There have, in fact, been incidents on trips in the past when information on the medical form has been instrumental in preventing serious consequences for some of our team members. It is not a form to be taken lightly, and you may wish to have your personal physician check the form prior to your travel to make certain everything necessary is included. This form is seen by no one other than our medical staff. A sample medical form is included in this booklet.



MEDICAL HISTORY FORM – USIMLT*

Confidential Information – Not to be Released without Permission/Emergency Situation

***Please print or type all information.**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
 Month Day Year

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone(s) incl. area code _____

e-mail _____

Height _____ ft. _____ in. Weight _____ Most recent blood pressure _____ / _____

Blood type & Rh factor (if known) _____

Personal physician & contact information & phone no. _____

If you are currently under a doctor's care, give reason _____

Please list in chart below all information regarding prescription medications you are currently taking. (Continue on back of form if necessary.)

Name of Medication	Condition for Which Prescribed

Please list any allergies you have (to foods, insects, medications, etc.) _____

Please list any hospitalizations or surgeries you have had in the past five years and reason for each. _____

When was your last Tetanus booster? _____

(**If you have not had a Tetanus booster in the last ten years, you should now get one.)

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Relationship to you _____

*SampleForm

CODE OF CONDUCT
USIMLT MEMBERS & STAFF*

Please read the following Code of Conduct very carefully, making sure that you understand it completely before signing it. Our Code of Conduct is to be taken seriously by all who sign it. Everyone on the United States International Muzzle Loading Team, including staff, represents the United States of America. Therefore, a team member's behavior must at all times conform to the standard deserving of its respect. Behavior that does not meet this standard also affects the overall morale of the team and breeds further erosion of the Code of Conduct, which cannot be tolerated if we are to achieve success in our efforts. Taking it lightly could lead to behavior that may be considered an infraction and result in disciplinary action being taken. For example, behavior unbecoming or inappropriate for a US team member, actions which would threaten the morale of another team member, or behavior which unfavorably affects the standing of the US team's relations with other MLAIC member countries would be considered infractions.

All orders or directives issued by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Team Captain, Deputy Team Captain, Squad Lieutenants and Deputy Squad Lieutenants are to be followed. If you disagree with a directive, you must nevertheless follow it. When the Championship event has been completed you may file a written report concerning this, including all of the necessary information, directly with the Secretary of the USIMLC Committee. Your complaint will be heard at the next board meeting of the USIMLC following the event.

All signers of this Code of Conduct do so with the full understanding and agreement that they will comply with all of the requirements set for a US team member for the entire time they travel with and participate as a team member. Violators of the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action which, depending on the severity, may take effect immediately or be deferred. Further action may be taken by the USIMLC Board of Directors as appropriate.

DO NOT SEPARATE CODE OF CONDUCT FROM FORM BELOW

I have read the above Code of Conduct thoroughly and understand its content. I agree that I will comply with all requirements of being a member of the USIMLC from the time I am accepted as such through the end of the upcoming fall USIMLC meeting. If I violate the Code of Conduct in any way, I understand that I may be separated from the group and will be liable for any other action deemed necessary by the USIMLC Board of

Directors. I understand that my refusal to sign this Code of Conduct renders me ineligible to be a member of the USIMLT.

Member's Signature _____
(Must be co-signed by parent/guardian if under age of 18)

Signature of Witness _____

Date _____

*Sample Form

SHOOTING SUPPLIES

Because a number of our supporters choose to donate shooting supplies to the U.S. Team, we have an assortment each year to distribute to our members. To reduce our mailing costs, we often bring some of these supplies to Ft. Shenandoah, the North-South Skirmish Association shooting range in Virginia, during the Nationals for distribution there. Alternate arrangements are made for distributing supplies to shooters who do not attend this event. The supplies include such things as black powder, roundballs, lubricants, patches, etc. You will be asked to complete a supply request form at some point prior to our ordering them, and it is extremely important that you get the completed form back to the designated person immediately. This way you will not be left out when the supplies arrive and are distributed.

AWARDS STAND PROTOCOL



If you are receiving an award at World Championships you will be aware of it before the ceremony and should plan your attire, etc., accordingly.

When you are called to the front to receive your medal, you should:

- Be in complete appropriate uniform, as designated previously by the Team Captain or Chair. This could be the track suits or team shirt and navy trousers, but in either event it does not mean jeans or trousers in another color, a non-team shirt, etc. Unless you are in formal dress, be certain to wear your current year baseball cap, as well. We always have an area assigned to our country where you can leave any part of your uniform you do not wish to wear during the shooting day, and someone from our security staff is always present to watch whatever has been left there.
- Walk to the awards platform and take your place on the appropriate level.
- There are two times when you should remove your baseball cap: first, when the presenter places the medal around your neck and second, when the national anthem of the first-place winner is played. When the anthem ends, you may place your cap back on your head and remain on the stand briefly for photographs before returning to your team's seating area.

GUEST POLICIES

The USIMLT has always welcomed shooters' guests on our trips to World Championships; we feel it is great support for the shooters to have those close to them along to cheer them on. We also greatly appreciate the assistance given us by these guests, and we consider them part of our support staff, and therefore they are also part of the team. There are many things that can be done to assist the team, from on-the-line spotting for shooters to helping shooters get their equipment to the shooting line, etc. If a guest has talents in a specific area, such as photography, for example, they can also assist in this area. Please have your guests check in with the person responsible for Support Staff assignments and find out how and when they can help.

Guests also must complete both the Medical and Code of Conduct forms. Because they are traveling as part of the team, we are also responsible for their health and well-being. You, as your guest's "sponsor", can assure them that they are, indeed, part of the U.S. Team.

First and foremost, we would ask that *everyone*, shooters and support staff alike, stay positive during the trip. Stresses do occur and sometimes tensions rise, but for the overall morale of the team, it is important to stay as positive as possible. If difficulties arise and it is necessary to "vent", please talk to one of your team officers and let them help you rather than having everyone be aware of it. The bottom line is that we value everyone's presence and want their World Championship experience to be a good one; we must all work together to make that happen.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR THE COMPETITOR

*The information printed here is only a part of the entire MLAIC Constitution. Every competitor should visit the MLAIC website, www.mlaic.org, for the complete updated Constitution and organization news.

1. There are two world MLAIC programs in which we participate:
 - World Muzzle Loading Championships, where all MLAIC member nations meet every two years for competition.
 - Zone Championships, where there are two geographical zones, and championships are held at a location within each zone on the alternate years to the Worlds:
European Zone, consisting of all of Europe and its eastern neighbors;
Pacific Zone, consisting of North and South America and their western neighbors.
2. Information about the international firing line includes the following:
 - Telescopes are permitted for spotting shots by the competitors, but no coaching or any assistance from others is permitted.
No caps or pan firing is permitted prior to the signal to Open Fire, and no firearm is to be loaded until the signal is given. All of this is to be done within your 30 minute time allotment.
 - All firearms must be unprimed during a Temporary Cease Fire, and all firearms are to be unloaded upon Cease Fire. If your firearm is still loaded, you are to notify the range officer, who will allow you to fire it into the backstop.
3. Targets:
 - Those competing in handgun and rifle events will use the UIT 50 meter pistol target (B-17).

- Those competing in firelock events will use the French Military 200 meter target (also called US #2).
 - Competitors shooting clay targets may refer to the USIMLC Constitution at the website to see the entire section specifically dedicated to the shotgun disciplines and their special rules and regulations.
 - Target Marking: upper left = relay number, lower left = competitor number, upper right = target number (position), lower right = event number. The competitor's actual name and his/her nation shall not appear or be identified in any manner upon the target. Therefore, it is very important the each competitor check and double check through their scope to be sure they are shooting on the correct target.
 - A total of 13 shots will be fired, with 6 on one target and 7 on the other. Targets will be placed side-by-side. If you choose to fire a fouling shot, be sure to notify the line officer so that he/she will not mark you with 14 record shots.
4. Duties and responsibilities of each competitor include the following:
- Have full knowledge and understanding of all competition rules and regulations (refer to MLAIC website) and abide by these rules at all times.
 - Bring all firearms being used to Firearms Control/Inspection at the designated times for inspection and approval prior to competing with said firearms. You will be given paperwork to take with each firearm and that approved paperwork must be on the firing line with you.
 - If necessary, you may be asked to provide proof of correctness of your firearm(s) to the Inspectors, and you should have this readily available.
 - Be on the correct relay and target position at the required times for all assigned competitions. It is, in fact, a good idea

- to be there early, so that you can watch the conditions prior to setting up. When you have completed your relay, be considerate of the next competitor using that position and get your belongings off the position as quickly as possible.
 - Practice good sportsmanship at all times and promote the aims of the MLAIC.
 - Always be responsible for the good working condition of your firearms and equipment.
5. Claims/Protests:
- If the competitor has an irregular situation, such as a misscored target, or something else of a serious nature, it should be taken to the Chair, Vice Chair or Team Captain. It will be put in writing and taken to the Arbitration Committee. Claims arising over the value of scores must be received by the Chief Arbitrator within one hour of the initial posting of the score.
6. General Information:
- No colors on front sights except black or white.
 - Half-cock notch, if present, should be in safe working condition. The inspectors will check this.
 - Originals: Any alteration made to an original which would spoil its historical value will disqualify its use for MLAIC competition.
 - Replicas: Must be an exact copy of a known original.
7. Safety Regulations:
- Smoking on the firing line is absolutely forbidden.
 - No caps or pan firing and no loading before Open Fire signal during competitions. Firearms not to be primed (pan powder or cap) before pointing towards target.
 - All firearms to be unprimed and placed in a safe position during Temporary Cease Fire.

- All firearms to be unloaded upon Cease Fire signal, and before retiring from firing line.
- Any firearms repairs must be done by the competitor alone and on the firing line during the allotted 30-minute time.
- No bulk powder on ranges. All loading powder pre-packed into single charge containers. No more than 16 grams/250 grains of priming powder in single container or small size flask. Keep loads away from sun.
- Caps are very sensitive and can be dangerous. Keep them away from sun and sparks. Take on line only enough for competition and keep container closed.
- Ramming: Bullet firmly positioned against powder charge to prevent bursting of barrel.
- The use of safety spectacles, or shooting glasses, tinted or otherwise, is mandatory with all firearms.
- The use of hearing protection is mandatory for shooters and Range Officers.
- Original firearms must be in safe shooting condition.
- Replica firearms must be of reliable manufacture and in safe shooting condition.
- Loads are never to exceed the normal table loads for modern black powder. If experiencing a misfire, the competitor must keep the firearm pointed towards the target for at least one minute. Continue to point the muzzle towards the target and never towards shooters or spectators, even after the firearm is cleared.
- Incidents: if an incident/malfunction cannot be immediately cleared by the competitor him/herself, the Range Officer must be informed before further action is taken.

- Special safety rules for matchlocks:
 1. Lighted end of match to be in safety box during loading.
 2. Match must be secured to firearm when shooting, not to fly away.
- Spectators must stay at least three meters (10 feet) behind competitors and remain quiet during shooting. No one other than Range Officers are permitted to speak to competitors during competitions.
- Loading incidents (bullet without powder, 2 bullets, etc.): competitors to notify Range or Line Officer and shoot away to clear firearm.
- Each competitor is responsible for the good working of his/her firearms and equipment.
- Only factory-made black powder is permitted in MLAIC competitions: no substitutes.



HOTEL ETIQUETTE AND OTHER TIPS

- Be careful when moving about inside the hotel (elevators, rooms, etc.) with cases for firearms and equipment. Any damage to walls, furniture, etc., will be charged either to the U.S. Team or to you personally.
- Cigarette burns in your room (or burns made by something other than cigarettes, such as curling irons) will be charged on your final hotel bill, and can become quite expensive, so use caution. This is also true of any fires that may occur due to other electrical devices. It is advisable to purchase electric converters in the U.S.A. for your use overseas.
- Towels belonging to the hotel are not to be used for cleaning your firearms or equipment. They, too, will be charged to you. Bring your own cleaning towels from home.
- Anything charged to your room and signed for must be paid when you check out. Check your final hotel bill to be sure all additional charges are valid.
- Tipping in other countries is not unlike tipping in the U.S.A. Generally, a tip of 15 to 20% is common, depending upon the place you're visiting and the quality of service received.
- The front desk attendant at the hotel can usually arrange a host of services for you, such as show tickets, tours, taxis, information, etc. Don't hesitate to ask what is available.

