



2022 Great Britain Pershing Team

Selection Policy

Team Officials: P. Strong (*Captain*), K. Ridgway (*Adjutant*), J. Leech (*Coach*)

The Pershing Match is an international ‘shoulder to shoulder’ smallbore prone rifle competition between the USA and the UK, which is normally held every eight years. Each team has ten shooters, two reserves and several officials. The course of fire is a Single Dewar (20 shots at 50 yards and 20 shots at 100 yards) shot outdoors on American targets. Historically, the Match has been shot at Camp Perry, Ohio. However, COVID-19 permitting, the next time the teams meet will be in July 2022 during the NRA of America’s National Matches, which are scheduled to be shot at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

The continuing impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on the shooting calendar has necessitated that the 2022 (previously 2021) Great Britain Pershing Team Selection Policy be revised. This revised policy, which is outlined below, has been designed to afford the NSRA the opportunity to try and hold at least one selection event during what is another extraordinary year. **All individuals* who wish to be considered for team selection are required to shoot the postal trial.** As a result of the uncertainty associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent need for flexibility, the Selection Policy is fluid and is therefore subject to change. The dates and number of competitors involved in each stage may vary. *‘wild cards’ and GB’s ‘Tokyo 2020’ 50m Rifle athletes are exempt from having to shoot the postal trial.

The 2022 Great Britain Pershing Team will be selected from a series of trials:

- **Stage 1** - postal Double Dewar (40 shots at 50metres/yards and 40 shots at 100 yards) shot on any suitable range and on NSRA approved targets. The trial can be shot as two separate Single Dewars on two separate days or as a Double Dewar on a single day. The last day for shooting is **Sunday 18th July 2021**.
- **Stage 2** - the **top 80** competitors from the postal trial will shoot a ‘shoulder to shoulder’ trial on American targets on **18th and 19th September 2021** at **Appleton, Cheshire**. It is anticipated that the course of fire will be 60 shots at 50 yards and 60 shots at 100 yards on both days; however, this may be amended.
- **Stage 3** - the **top 40** competitors from the Appleton trial will shoot a ‘shoulder to shoulder’ trial on American targets on **9th and 10th October 2021** at **Sywell, Northants**. The course of fire is yet to be determined.
- **Stage 4** - the **top 20** competitors from the Sywell trial will make up the cohort of athletes who travel to the USA. The team of **ten shooters** and **two reserves** will be selected from the aggregate scores in the ‘Metallic Sights’ championship at the NRA of America’s 2022 National Matches.

The Team Captain may, at his sole discretion, offer places at any stage of the trial to ‘wild cards’. Athletes selected to represent Great Britain in any of the 50m Rifle events at the rescheduled ‘Tokyo 2020’ Olympics will be invited to participate.

This is a very important competition. As always, effective witnessing is paramount. Therefore, the NSRA reserves the right to appoint a nominated witness for any trialist.

Individuals that enter the trial and thus put themselves forward for selection must meet the following criteria:

- Be either an Individual (full) member, Junior/FTE member, or Life member of the NSRA
- Be eligible to travel to the USA with their .22 rifle and ammunition
- Be a British Citizen
- Hold a valid FAC with space for at least 1000 rounds of .22 ammunition

IMPORTANT - Circumstances beyond the control of the NSRA might dictate that those travelling to the USA will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Other considerations:

- Each travelling individual will be required to self-fund at least £1,000 (the effects of COVID-19 could mean this figure is significantly more)
- The trip will require a maximum of 2 weeks' holiday (9-10 days minimum)
- COVID-19 permitting, for the athletes selected to travel to the USA there will be two dedicated training weekends in Spring 2022
- Individuals should be aware that temperatures in July at the US Nationals can (and often do) exceed 30°C with humidity regularly in excess of 70%

Contingency plans:

Should it not be possible for one or both of the planned 'shoulder to shoulder' trials to take place, the athletes that will travel to the USA will be selected from the top scores from the last trial that was able to take place, which means that in the event that both 'shoulder to shoulder' trials do not go ahead, the scores from the postal trial will be used.

If it is not possible to send a team to the USA, it is hoped that a "Goodwill" postal match will take place instead. In the event that a "Goodwill" postal match is to be held, the team of ten shooters and two reserves will be selected from the top scores from the last trial stage that was able to take place.