

Balloon Shooting Competition

(Airgun / Air Rifle Balloon Target Shooting)

1. Introduction and History

Balloon Shooting is a precision-based recreational and competitive activity involving the shooting of air-filled balloons from a set distance using airguns or air rifles. Its origins lie in informal village fairs, carnival games, and basic training exercises used by shooting clubs to enhance aim and trigger control.

Over time, this playful activity has evolved into a recognized marksmanship sport in various parts of the world. The Modern Pythian Games celebrate Balloon Shooting as an inclusive, skill-based competition that promotes focus, hand-eye coordination, and mental discipline. It is our mission to establish Balloon Shooting as a standardized cultural and competitive event with international rules, offering a global platform for youth, adults, and para-athletes to showcase their talent.

2. Rules and Regulations

a. Equipment

- Only .177 caliber (4.5 mm) air rifles or air pistols are permitted.
- Weapons must not exceed 7.5 joules of muzzle energy.
- Iron or open sights only – no scopes or laser sights allowed.
- All equipment is subject to inspection and approval by the organizing committee.

b. Balloons and Target Setup

- Standard balloon size: 6–8 inches in diameter (inflated).
- Shooting distances:
 - 10 meters for pistols.
 - 15 meters for rifles.
- Each round includes 10 balloons.
- Balloons are mounted on a fixed frame or rigid board.
- Color-coded balloons may be introduced to represent bonus or penalty targets.

c. Competition Format

- Qualifying Round: Each participant has 1 minute to shoot all 10 balloons.
- Knockout / Time Trial Round: Fastest and most accurate shooters advance.
- Final Round: Top qualifiers compete for speed and precision under pressure.

d. Scoring System

- Each balloon burst = 10 points.
- Time-based tie-breaker: Shorter completion time wins in case of equal points.
- Penalty of -5 points for:
 - Hitting outside the designated target zone.
 - Safety violations.

3. Global Cultural & Local Names

Balloon Shooting is celebrated in different cultures and known by various names around the world:

- India: "Balloon Shooting" / "Gubbare Baazi"
- USA & UK: "Carnival Balloon Popping"
- Japan: "Fusen Uchi" (Balloon Target Shooting)
- Mexico: "Tiro de Globos"
- Germany: "Luftballon-Schießen"
- France: "Tir aux ballons"
- Brazil: "Tiro ao Balão"
- Russia: "Стрельба по шарам" (Strel'ba po sharam)
- Africa (varies by region): "Balloon Target Challenge"

4. Competition Categories

Age-Based Divisions

- Under 12 years
- 13 to 17 years
- 18 to 35 years
- 36 to 60 years
- Above 60 years (Senior Citizens)
- Para/Disabled Category (All ages, based on functional ability)

5. Type-Based Divisions

- Individual (Male / Female / Other)
- Team Events (2 to 4 members)
- Mixed Ability Teams (Disabled and able-bodied participants together)

6. Eligibility Criteria

- Open to all national and international participants.
- Valid ID proof and age certificate are required at registration.
- Para/disabled participants must provide valid disability certification.
- Online participants must:
 - Submit high-quality, unedited video entries OR
 - Join live competitions via authorized platforms (Zoom, Pythian Games App).
- Only approved equipment may be used.

7. Judging & Jury

Jury Composition

- 1 Senior Judge from traditional or recreational sports
- 1 Member from Para Sports Federation / Inclusive Games Expert
- 1 Technical Officer (for equipment and video verification)
- 1 Youth/Public Engagement Representative (optional)

Public Participation in Judging

For online and hybrid events, the audience may participate in judging through:

- Pythian Games Official Website
- Mobile App Voting
- In-person voting (by hand-raising or placards)
- SMS Voting (mobile number announced during the event)

Note: Public votes do not affect technical scores but will determine the Public Choice Award.

8. Awards & Recognition

- Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals for each category and age group
- Public Choice Award – based on audience votes
- Best Para Performer Award – recognizing excellence among disabled participants
- Creative Excellence Award – for most unique performance (especially in online mode)
- Participation Certificates for all registered entrants
- Pythian Talent Badges – awarded via Pythian Games mobile app
- Champion Trophies – at state, national, and international levels

9. Safety & Ethical Guidelines

- No real firearms are allowed at any stage.
- Children must be under adult supervision at all times.
- All equipment must be inspected and cleared before use.
- Participants must uphold fair play, safety, and sportsmanship.
- Online submissions must not be edited or manipulated in any form.
- Organizers have the right to disqualify entries for:
 - Misconduct
 - Safety breaches
 - Violations of rules or ethics

10. Special Provisions for Disabled Participants

The Modern Pythian Games encourage the full participation of artists with disabilities, offering:

- Use of customized shooting aids, including:
 - Mouth-activated triggers
 - Wheelchair mounts
 - Adaptive seating or standing support
- Assistance permitted for setup only, not for aiming or shooting.
- Separate scoring and award categories ensure fair recognition.
- Alternative formats such as:
 - Balloon Bursting by Touch
 - Balloon Dart Drop
 - may be introduced for participants with limited motor control or sensory impairments.