ISSUE: Can the slide on an eligible Distinguished Semi-Automatic Pistol be replaced with one made by a company that did not manufacture the pistol?

This question came about when a competitor's slide was damaged and had to be replaced in order to use the pistol. Due to the high cost involved in obtaining a slide from the pistol's manufacturer, the competitor asked about replacing the original slide with one made by Caspian Arms.

FINDING: Rule Section 3.1.2 states that “Any accessories, parts, and components which are manufactured to duplicate, in materials and dimensions, the original as offered by the manufacturer” are allowed.

If the replacement slide is of the same dimensions and is a duplicate of the original slide of the pistol as it was made by the manufacturer it would be allowed.

It is important to stress that the slide must be a duplicate in all features. Sight cuts, serrations, extractor types, radius, slide/barrel length, safety features, and caliber must match the original model. For instance, most replacement slides offered by Caspian Arms can be ordered with many different features, such as numerous options for the front and rear sight cuts. If the selected options do not match the original slide that came on the original pistol the slide change would not be allowed.

Other slide changes, such as changing the rear sight would be allowed as long as the sight type is permissible and it installs without external alterations, such as changing the sight cut.

It would also be prohibited to change a slide with one of a different slide-barrel length to try to make the gun eligible for another match type; i.e. you cannot take off a 6” slide-barrel combination on a Distinguished Semi-Automatic Pistol and replace it with a 5” slide-barrel combination and then use it as a Stock Semi-Automatic Pistol.

3.7 Distinguished Semi-Automatic Pistol: Factory manufactured (catalog item) center-fire semi-automatic pistol capable of chambering and firing .35 caliber or larger ammunition, or FN 5.7 x 28 caliber ammunition. Trigger pull must not be less than 3.5 pounds single or double action. All double action semi-automatic pistols must fire the first shot of every stage double action except at the 50 yard line.

Allowed:
1. Maximum barrel length of 6 inches.
2. Any accessories, parts, and components which are manufactured to duplicate, in materials and dimensions, the original as offered by the manufacturer.
3. Open sights, from any manufacturer.
4. Maximum sight radius of 7.5 inches.
5. Finger groove and slip on grips.
6. Extended magazine well funnel.
7. Magazine bumper pads.

Prohibited:
1. Adjustable front sights.
2. Thumb rest.
3. Grips/Stocks that are flared at the base.
4. Tape on the grip/stock.
5. Any substance that results in a sticky surface to the grip/stock or hand.
6. Full-length Bo-Mar type ribs on the slide.
7. Weighted grips grip panels.
8. External trigger stops.