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Rules change, results don't: Rio 2016 Champ Anna Korakaki wins the ISSF World Cup Final

The new 2017 ISSF Rules for the 25m Pistol Women event have been introduced at the ISSF World Cup Final in Bologna, today. Greece's Anna Korakaki, the Rio 2016 Olympic Champion, won the match with 7 points of advantage on her followers. Another Olympic Champion, Germany's Christian Reitz, claimed gold at the following 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men final.

It's a magic year for Anna Korakaki, the 20-year old Greek shooter who collected an Olympic title and a silver medal in Rio de Janeiro just two months ago. Korakaki sealed "the best season of her career" in Bologna, Italy, today, as she won the 25m Pistol Women event at the ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup Final, becoming the 2016 world cup champion.

Rules change, result don't: Anna is still in the lead. Today's final was indeed conducted according to the new 2017 ISSF Rules approved by the ISSF Administrative Council at its last meeting, earlier this year. The format of the 25m Pistol Women final has moved from a semi-final / medal matches format to an elimination-style event: after the fourth series, the shooter with the lower score is eliminated. From there on, after each series, the lowest ranked athlete has to leave the match, until only two are left on the line dueling for Gold.

Korakaki did not hesitate. Scoring 39 hits, she finished in the lead beating Korea's 2012 Olympic Champion Kim Jangmi, who collected today's Silver with 32 hits. To finish on the second step of the podium, Kim shot-off London 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Olena Kostevych of the Ukraine, who pocketed the Bronze with 30 hits.

"This is a fantastic way to close the season," Korakaki said. "The rules have changed, but luckily that didn't affect me. This was a test for the new rules that will be in use from January 2017. We all agreed in trying them out here in Bologna, and I like this format more than the previous one."

"It has been a crazy season for me. Winning two medals in Rio de Janeiro really changed my life," she continued. "There's a lot of media pressure now, and people on the street recognize me: I am not used to it!"

"In addition to that, today I got this huge glass globe. Winning the World Cup feels great, after Rio this will be my best memory of 2016."

At the following 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Final, another Olympic Champion, Germany's Christian Reitz, finished in the spotlight. Scoring 34 hits, he secured the title leaving behind him Rio 2016's Bronze medalist Li Yuehong of the People's Republic of China, who marked 31 hits to claim today's silver medal. The three-time World Cup champion Alexei Klimov of the Russian Federation scored 26 hits to take the Bronze.

But the highlight of Reitz's year is yet to come. "I have some big plans for December," he said, holding the ISSF Globe after the award ceremony, "I am getting married with my fiancé. We will fly to the Caribbean, and I will finally take some time off."

The 2016 ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup Final will see four medal events tomorrow (October 8th). The 10m Air Rifle and the 10m Air Pistol Men and Women finals will be contested starting from 1.30 PM (UTC+2). Follow the events live at www.issf-sports.org and on the Olympic Channel at www.olympicchannel.com

Editorial photos are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/issf_shooting

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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