

18Bn MRC – Shooting Rules

REVISIONS

The 18Bn Shooting Rules has been updated, published and are effective on the date listed below:

Version 1.0 - Draft 2019 – not published

Version 1.1 – November 2019 – published

Version 1.2 – July 2022 – format and minor amendments – approved 10.7.22

Version 1.3 – September 2023 – general amendments and inclusion of black powder and Temporary Members – approved and published 4.10.23

Version 1.4 – October 2023 – minor formatting amendments, addition on mobile phones usage – approved and published 29.10.23

SOURCES

National Rifle Association UK - 'Bisley Bible';

Ministry of Defence UK - Pamphlet No. 20 'Competition Shooting' in Part III 'Target Shooting' and definitions JSP403 Vol.IV;

National Rifle Association of Australia and its' state bodies;

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia;

Australian Defence Force Army publication, 'Australian Army Skill at Arms';

Manual of Land Warfare (MLW 2-9-2 Range Regulations) superseded by Publication LWP-G 7-3-1 ADF Range Orders (Land) 2012;

Musketry Regulations Part 1 (1912 with amendments);

Infantry Training (4 Company) 1914;

New South Wales Muzzle Loading Association Inc, (NSWMLA);

Black powder enthusiasts in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

NSW Firearms Act 1996

NSW Firearms Regulation 2017

Finding that which is required and works, then adopting it in the interests of public and individual safety is the motivation driving this publication. Quoted from Pamphlet No. 20, remembering always *"target shooting is a test of skill, concentration, self-discipline and team-work; it is also social, friendly and fun"*.

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RIFLE SHOOTING

Ammunition

Except where the use of issued or service ammunition is specified in the match rules, factory or hand-loaded ammunition in the appropriate calibre may be used consistent with the limits imposed on the shooting range (for Hornsby Rifle Range – see Range Standing Orders (RSO's) as issued by NSRTSCMA and approved by FAR).

Hand-loaded ammunition must confirm in all respects (charge wise, Overall Length (OAL), projectile weight, case trim length etc.) to the specifications nominated in a relevant reloading manual published by a reputable projectile / ammunition manufacturer or alternatively a propellant powder manufacturer. No propellant powder loads above the maximum powder charges specified by such manuals are to be used.

Range Officers

The Range and all range activity will be under the direction of a Range Officer (RO) and such Safety Assistant (SA) as may be appointed by the RO. Where targets are operated from a trench then a Butts Officer (BO) may be appointed under the Range Officer. Where more than one range is in use then radio contact is to be maintained between the Range Officers.

Range Safety

The safety of shooters, range officers, spectators and the general public is of paramount importance and requires continued and careful attention to the handling of firearms and caution in moving about on the range. Self-discipline is necessary on the part of all. It is the duty of Range Officers to enforce discipline, where necessary, and the duty of shooters and officials to co-operate and assist in such enforcement.

Range conduct and safety rules for the Hornsby range complex are laid down in the Range Standing Orders (RSO's) as issued by NSRTSCMA and approved by FAR.

It is essential that all new members and temporary members are introduced to the key safety points of the RSO's and these 18Bn Safe Shooting rules (SSR). The induction document is provided to all new members and temporary members to read before commencing any shooting activities as a way of introduction to the RSO's and SSR. It should not be assumed that because a newcomer has had some level of training, they will be competent with the firearm or environment. Supervision is also an essential part of introducing a new shooter or temporary member to range safety and 18Bn events.

Sign In

All members including temporary members must sign in either at the club house or with the RO. Sign in requires the attendance book to be signed. A member must sign the members book, a firearms licenced visitor with 'Target Shooting' as a genuine reason on their firearms licence will sign the temporary members book and an unlicenced visitor will sign the temporary members book and complete a P650

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form. Note a firearms licenced visitor that does not have 'Target Shooting' as a genuine reason on their firearms licence will also be required to complete a P650 form.

Butts Duty

A condition of shooting at an 18B event is to undertake target marking (Butts Duty) unless an exemption is granted, specifically for competitors who have a disability or are physical frail (e.g. very advanced age) which does not allow them to mark. Setting up, putting away and operating the marking equipment requires moderate physical effort. Once a competitor finishes shooting in an event they must promptly pack up and secure their firearm and immediately go the butts to provide marking duty for the next squad. Competitors who have setup the targets and commence an event in the butts are generally assigned the last shooting squad of the day to avoid them doing double butts duty. The final marking squad is generally expected to put away targets. **Do not hesitate to ask for advice on marking procedure (it is important).**

The butts equipment comprises mechanically operated steel equipment including moving steel frames, counterweights, pulleys and steel wires. It is imperative that all parts of the markers body are kept away from moving pulleys, wires and sliding frame components during the operation of the equipment or injury may result. Markers must obey any safety and marking operation instructions given by the Butts Officer. All movement in the markers gallery during an event must be done under the parapet, under no circumstances shall a marker walk behind the butts equipment during an event.

Safe keeping and transportation of Firearms

At all times you are required to keep your firearm safe, this includes storage, transport to and from the range and while you are at the range.

The below is an excerpt from the NSW Police Force web site:

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms/safe_storage

What are the general requirements in relation to the safe keeping of firearms?

All licence holders in NSW are subject to the general requirement for safe storage of firearms - section 39 of the Firearms Act 1996 (Act). Any person in possession of a firearm must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

There are specific legislative requirements for the transportation of category A, B, C, D & H firearms and for the commercial transportation of firearms in addition to the general requirement.

What are the legislative requirements for transporting Category A & B firearms?

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Category A & B firearms must be conveyed in accordance with the following requirements—

- The firearm must be conveyed in a manner that ensures compliance with section 39 of the Act (see above),
- The firearm must not be loaded with any ammunition while it is being conveyed,
- While the firearm is being conveyed in a vehicle it must not be visible from outside the vehicle.

NOTE: At no time should a firearm be left stored unattended in a motor vehicle unless the firearms are stored in accordance with the requirements of category C, D & H firearms and no other alternative safe storage is available.

Category C, D & H firearms must be conveyed unloaded, with the ammunition kept in a locked container separate from the firearms. The firearm must be rendered temporarily incapable of being fired (e.g. by removal of the bolt/firing mechanism or the use of trigger locks) or must be kept in a locked container that is properly secured to, or is within the vehicle.

Minors

A member or temporary member attending the range with a minor is responsible and must supervise the minor at all times.

Dogs

Any member attending the range with a dog is responsible at all times for the dog and ensuring it does not interfere with other range users or disrupt activities. It is recommended that a dog be kept on a leash at all times.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Firearms must be unloaded at all times, except when they are being used under the orders of a Range Officer on the firing line. Unloaded means; no cartridge or pellet is to be in the chamber, on the loading platform or in a magazine, whether fixed or removable.
- The bolt must be removed.
- If the bolt cannot be removed - in the case of a pump, slide or lever action the action of the firearm must be open and the chamber entrance / ejection port either open to view or, where appropriate, have a breech or chamber flag inserted even when cased.
- A firer may not leave the firing point without first having the firearm examined by the Range Officer or other persons delegated for that duty and the firearm declared a second time 'clear', then 'safe to remove'.
- When finished - secure the firearm and ammunition as required by Section 39 of the NSW Firearms Act ..

Remembering always *"target shooting is a test of skill, concentration, self-discipline and team-work; it is also social, friendly and fun"*.

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1 INTRODUCTION - SERVICE RIFLE

1.1 These rules specify the procedures that are to be followed in all military matches and events.

Competitions will be conducted by the Club offering two styles of shooting based on Black Powder or Smokeless Powder across four classes of cartridge rifle for competition purposes:

Service Rifle 'a' - Standard

Service Rifle 'b' - Modified

Service Rifle 'c' - Optical

Open Class - Any, including field rifles.

Note that an overall limit of 8mm calibre for centrefire smokeless cartridge rifles applies as a condition of the Range Approval at Hornsby and lower velocity, lead projectile only calibres for black powder cartridge or muzzle loaders are permitted up to 0.75 inch. Magnum rifle calibres are not permitted.

1.2 These rules may be modified at the discretion of the Club with regard to match conditions, modification of rifle, dress and equipment, conduct of shooting, marking and scoring and the method of exposing the targets. Note that muzzle brakes are allowed at the discretion of the Range Officer.

1.3 If a competitor challenges the organiser's determination of the class of rifle, the onus of proof falls to the competitor to provide acceptable evidence of their claim. Note that the organiser's decision after considering any claim shall be final.

1.4 It is expected that rifles will be 'zeroed' at the distance being undertaken where the point-of-aim equals the point-of-impact. Where any doubt exists the rifle is to be 'declared' to the Range Officer who will inform the Butts Officer and markers to pay special attention to the fall of shot. Where determined the fall of shot location will be communicated to the Range Officer whom shall inform the shooter.

1.5 In most instances the match commences once the target is struck by the first sighting shot that can be scored, otherwise it is usually two sighting shots only to either optionally count or not.

1.6 During competitions, competitors whilst on the firing point;

- a) may spot and score for each other
- b) should attempt to observe fall of shot for a competitor whose first sighter may or has missed the target, until a scoring shot is achieved, and should provide such information on fall of shot as can be determined

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- c) may advise on appropriate wind allowance to a competitor who is rectifying first shot misses of the intended target, and

1.7 Where convertible sighting shots are permitted, the following shall apply:

- a) After a competitor has fired their sighting shots, they shall elect to count the 2nd sighting shot alone, or both 1st and 2nd, in their score, but not the 1st on its own. They also may choose to strike both out. The competitor, or in team matches a nominated person, must declare an intention to the scorer before any further shot is fired. In the absence of such declaration, both sighting shots are deemed to be the first two recorded counting towards the score.
- b) If a competitor converts one or both sighters and then fires additional shots beyond the requirements of the competition, any such excess shots fired shall not be considered.

2 CLASS OF RIFLE

2.1 Service Rifle 'a' - Standard

- a) Military type rifles with either turning bolt, straight-pull or hinged block action with open iron rear sight with a post front sight.
- b) The rifle must have been of service issue within the defence forces of a nation to the soldier, sailor, airman or marine.
- c) The rifle must be externally complete as issued with the stock, sights, barrel and sling being of original service pattern. Replacement barrels may dispense with bayonet lugs but must be of the original service profile. Faithful reproduction stocks and slings are permitted provided the rifle is externally complete as issued.
- d) Calibre of ammunition used must be that of the original service issued calibre.

2.1.1 Service Rifle 'b' - Modified

The Modified class firearm is a Standard rifle that differs from the definition in 2.1 by virtue of being fitted with after-market sights (aperture / non optical), non-original calibre, modified stock, barrel being different to the original service profile, recoil pad, bipod, magazine adaptations and military or non-military type sling.

2.1.2 Service Rifle 'c' - Optical

Original genuine issue military rifles for marksman or sniper use, or faithful reproductions, may be used. Note that magnification is limited to the lowest, or to no more than 4x, across all rifles shooting in this classification under match conditions.

2.1.3 Open Class - Any

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Open Class firearms are all others clearly not of original manufacture for military use or in the same style that includes any long arm with any sighting system.

2.2 A faithful reproduction is defined as any rifle:-

- a) that is made up 'in the spirit' from original and after-market parts, and
- b) is externally complete compared to the military issue.

3 RIFLE COMPONENTS

3.1 Sights

Sights may be blackened, or definition applied to the rear of the foresight, i.e., a contrasting colour intended to stand out against the target. Non original components are not to be used to shade the eye, or sights or alter the originality of the rifle. Rear sight lenses or filters not permitted.

3.1.1 SR'a' - Standard

There is no adjustment of the foresight once the match starts. The rear sight may be adjusted in elevation and for wind during the course of fire, provided the rear leaf sight is of a windage type as issued. Note that, if the rear sight is of the aperture type, i.e., Lee Enfield No. 4, P14 / P17, no after-market device is permitted that will reduce the size of the aperture or allow for windage adjustment. If so fitted then into the Modified class it goes.

3.1.2 SR'b' - Modified

There is no adjustment of the foresight once the match starts. Any modified rifle that is fitted with an adjustable rear sight with windage adjustment, e.g., Rawson or Central Sight, is permitted to be adjusted for elevation and wind during the course of a match.

3.1.3 Optical

There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments other than a maximum magnification limit as noted in 2.1.2.

3.1.4 Open Class - Any

There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments or magnification other than there is no adjustment of the foresight (if fitted and used) once the match starts.

3.2 Slings

3.2.1 Standard, Modified and Optical Class

As an aid to steadiness a sling if fitted may be used. The sling must be of a service pattern or faithful reproduction of a service issue to the rifle being used. Attached to either one or two sling swivels the sling may be placed around one arm and / or

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wrist but not around any other part of the shooter's body. The sling can be wrapped around the fore end of the rifle. A sling attached to the rifle must not interfere with carrying out rifle handling safely. If a sling is fitted and not used, it may drape or be gathered up.

Note for Lee Enfield's (SMLE) - The King Screw Swivel also known as a Competition Sling Swivel (fitted in front of the trigger guard) is not an issue item. This is an after-market accessory and can be fitted but not used on a SR'a' Standard firearm in competition. It is permitted for use with SR'b' Modified, SR'c' Optical and Open Class rifles.

3.2.2 Open Class

There are no restrictions on sling type or style yet safety while carrying and handling the firearm is paramount. Secure a loose sling before moving from your position or when leaving the firing point.

4 TRIGGERS

4.1 Standard, Modified and Optical Class

All triggers shall have a minimum trigger weight of 1.5kg. Single and two stage triggers are permitted.

4.2 Match triggers are not permitted for Standard, Modified or Optical matches. There are no restrictions applying to Open Class other than a minimum trigger weight of 1.0kg.

4.3 Vigorous Cycle Test

If requested by the Range Officer or is required as part of Match conditions, the steps to be followed are;

- a) Cycle the bolt closed and then fully open - Do Not pull the trigger. Make sure the chamber is empty before proceeding any further. Visually check that the chamber is empty.
- b) Close the bolt confidently with enough force demonstrating engagement of the sear is adequate and safe. If a Snapcap is required it is to be inserted in the breech before the bolt is closed.
- c) If directed to do so, cycle the bolt from open to fully closed, then open and repeat three times. The firing pin should never 'slip' off the sear leading to an unintended discharge.
- d) If a military two-stage trigger, carefully feel the first creep or resistance up to the hold point, then slowly apply sufficient force to defeat the break point causing the firing pin to strike.

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- e) If a single stage trigger, squeeze the trigger to release showing that the sear engagement has worked.
- f) If the test has passed the Range Officer or Scorer (if so nominated) can give the shooter an All Clear to proceed.
- g) If the rifle fails the vigorous cycling test, the rifle will be declared unsafe and the Range Officer will be immediately notified.

4.4 Safety Catch

If fitted, the rifle is to have a functioning safety catch.

4.5 Barrels

Any barrel made and proofed to replicate an original service issued barrel shall be permitted in any style and class of rifle used in any match conducted by the Club.

Where a No. 1 rifle is fitted with a 'H' (for heavy) barrel and is fitted with an as-issued rear leaf sight then it satisfies SR'a' Standard. Where no rear leaf sight to a 'H' barrel is fitted an after-market rear peep / aperture sight is to be used satisfying SR'b' Modified.

Careful note is to be made by the shooter before loading the firearm that the calibre of ammunition is appropriate to the calibre of barrel being used. This information is often stamped into the barrel (near the chamber) or the receiver.

5 DRESS AND EQUIPMENT

5.1 Clothing

The clothing worn is for outdoors, street or field and is robust enough for the activity engaged in. It needs to be suitable for the climate on the day. Summer lighter, winter heavier and warmer.

Speciality coats specifically made for shooting, as well as jackets and / or trousers, (as used in S&M, Full Bore) etc., are not permitted. A good ex-military field jacket of a plain colour or the like serves the purpose well.

Elbow and shoulder pads can be sewn in, pinned or strapped on to the outer garments but must not be more extensive than is necessary to protect the elbow and shoulder area.

Any thing that may be seen to provide artificial support for the rifle, sling or competitors limbs or torso, are not permitted on or in the outer or under garments.

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Footwear that is fully enclosed must be worn at all times. Bare feet, thongs, sandals, etc., are not permitted on the firing mound, in the butts or at the clubhouse.

Headgear such as Specialist Target Rifle shooting hats are prohibited. Any other hat or head covering is permitted, providing it is and can be secured by a chin strap or other method. Note that, should a competitor lose their hat forward of the firing line the Range Officer must be notified. Only with the permission of the Range Officer can they retrieve it after the practice, match or stage is complete and all rifles are cleared. If it is lost to the sides or to the rear, the competitor may retrieve it, provided it is safe to do so and only when the proposed action is notified to and approved by the Range Officer.

Wet Weather Gear may be used and worn but must not be more extensive than is necessary.

The use of firing point cover, such as pergolas, or tenting is permitted provided all shooters benefit from the cover.

5.2 Hearing Protection

For abundant caution - hearing protection is recommended for all personnel whilst on or about the firing mound or in the butts at all times.

Hearing protection is recommended to be applied when the range is declared OPEN. When the range is declared OPEN by the RO, firing could commence at any time.

5.3 Gloves

Gloves and shooting mitts of any type or style are not permitted in Standard, Modified Class or Optical Class. No restrictions apply to Open Class.

5.4 Ground Sheets

A ground sheet may be used in all courses of fire for the protection of clothing and / or equipment, provided that it is not constructed or used in such a way as to provide artificial support for the competitor or their rifle.

Target / specialist shooting mats are permitted to be used in their intended manner where the firing mound is of a natural material, e.g., grass or dirt.

Target / specialist shooting mats, rubber underlay, or any other suitable protective material are permitted on ranges that have hard firing mounds made of concrete or bitumen or the like.

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5.5 Shooting Glasses

No eye-wear is to have sight blinkers, side blinds, aperture, sighting aid or any device that is clearly attached to the lens. Safety glasses, prescription spectacles, contact lenses, coloured shooting glasses, sunglasses with conventional frames and specialist shooting glasses (monocular style) are permitted.

5.6 Optical Aids

Binoculars, monoculars, telescopes and spotting scopes are permitted provided their stands or tripods do not inconvenience other competitors and they provide no support of or shelter to the rifle or competitor.

6 AMMUNITION

No tracer, incendiary or armour piercing projectiles may be used under any circumstances. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that the ammunition used is of a permitted type provided that the calibre is approved for the range and is in accordance with the prescribed match conditions. This applies to all military, surplus, factory and hand-loaded ammunition.

Hand-loaded ammunition must confirm in all respects (charge wise, Overall Length (OAL), projectile weight, case trim length etc.) to the specifications nominated in a relevant reloading manual published by a reputable projectile / ammunition manufacturer or alternatively a propellant powder manufacturer. No propellant powder loads above the maximum powder charges specified by such manuals are to be used.

Ammunition may be scrutinised at the Club's discretion and the Range Officer has the right to disallow and remove any competitor's ammunition that is in their considered opinion to be defective or unsafe to be fired. The onus for future use then falls to the competitor.

If the Range Officer disallows and removes any ammunition from a competitor, it is to be returned to the competitor at the completion of the match or competition.

7 RIFLE FUNCTIONING, SAFETY AND READINESS ORDERS

7.1 Misfires, Jams and Breakages

For all matches or parts thereof within a competition the Competitor is required to use the same rifle. Where a rifle becomes unserviceable due to mechanical failure or for safety reasons, the condition is to be verified by the Range Officer and / or a knowledgeable adjudicator from the 18Bn MRC.

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A competitor may with the permission of the Range Officer, use another rifle. No allowance will be given for a misfired round or jams due to a defect or breakage in either the rifle or magazine, or any action caused or taken by the firer.

For a round that does not discharge during the deliberate stage of a matches or sighting shots, a competitor must wait then may replace the defective round and continue provided that it is safe to do so. During rapid and snap matches, a misfired round will not entitle the competitor to a re-shoot or make up shots

In any match, the competitor is only to fire the prescribed number of rounds as outlined in the match conditions. A fired round is defined as any round fired by the competitor whereby the projectile leaves the barrel.

Where a round behaves as if is not charged or charged with very little powder, a 'squib' load, the Range Officer is to be notified, the bolt and ammunition removed and rifle and shooter retire from the firing mound. The barrel is to be inspected for obstruction and if so found to be, then the rifle is deemed defective and not to be used until such time as the obstruction is cleared.

7.2 Blockages and Separation

If a firearm cannot be unloaded in the normal manner, the firer is to leave it on the firing point pointing towards the butts with the breech open and / or bolt and any remaining ammunition removed. The firer is to inform the Range Officer immediately. The firearm is to remain pointing towards the butts until the detail has finished. The Range Officer is to arrange for a competent person or armorer or a person designated by the club to remove the firearm for repair. For an unfired round a stuck-round removal tool is to be used and at no time is a cleaning rod to be inserted into the muzzle to remove the live round.

In the event of a cartridge being extracted and the projectile remains behind, held firm into the lands, the rifle is to be made safe and any ammunition is to be removed. The firer is to inform the Range Officer immediately. After confirmation from the Range Officer the projectile may be removed with a cleaning rod or similar object.

If on discharge a 'case head separation' occurs, the firer is to immediately cease-fire and notify the Range Officer. Should ammunition be present in the magazine, the magazine is to be removed or where inconvenient due to design or complexity all remaining rounds are to be carefully removed. The Range Officer is to arrange for a competent person or armorer or a person designated by the club to inspect and effect any removal of the remaining case and checking the bore is clear.

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8 TRIGGER TESTING

When, and if triggers are tested, they are to be randomly tested at the completion of an individual serial and at the Club's discretion.

If a rifle fails the trigger test, the competitor is to surrender the rifle into the possession of the Range Officer who is to retest the trigger with the competitor present as a witness to the test after the rifle cools down. If the trigger continues to fail, the competitor will forfeit the score from that match. In the event of an appeal, the competitor is not to use that rifle until the appeal has been dealt with. The competitor may use an alternative rifle pending the completion of the appeal process. If the appeal is upheld, the points forfeit will be reinstated.

When scrutinising applies before a competition, all triggers are to be tested resisting a minimum pull-off weight. Those that fail can be retested once adjustments have been effected, but the rifle shall not be presented for testing no more than three (3) times.

Dry firing with an unloaded rifle may only be done with the Range Officer's permission from the firing mound provided the range is OPEN. The rifle must be cleared safe (see 9.6) before the shooter retires from the mound with that rifle.

9 FIRING POINT READINESS ORDERS

9.1 'Load'

On the command 'Load', the competitor is to secure a loaded magazine into the rifle or place rounds manually into the magazine using a charger clip or by single round loading, or in the case of a single-shot rifle by direct loading to the chamber of the rifle. The action is to be in the open condition until the command 'Action' is given.

Before conducting a walk-down during a match, all rounds are to be removed from the magazine or the magazine removed and the action is to be open - the rifle must be clear of ammunition. The Range Officer is to ensure this is carried out before the competitors depart from the firing point. The muzzle is to be directed towards the butts area and the trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard. The rifle will be transported horizontally at the carry. On arriving at the next distance the shooter is to wait for the 'Load' command before recharging the magazine or chamber while keeping the muzzle directed towards the butts at all times.

9.2 'Action' and 'Instant'

On the command 'Action', competitors are to close the action in a manner that feeds and then locks a round into the chamber and cocks the firing pin. The rifle is to be in the shoulder whilst chambering a round with the muzzle pointed towards the target

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and butts area. The trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard. Safety devices may be engaged if the competitor chooses. On the command 'Instant' the safety catch is then disengaged.

9.3 'Are You Ready?'

The shooter is to indicate to the Range Officer in an appropriate and safe manner if they are not ready to commence the practice.

9.4 'Watch and Shoot' or 'In Your Own Time, Go On'

On the command 'Watch and Shoot', or, 'In Your Own Time, Go On', the finger may be placed inside the trigger guard and upon the appearance of the target and on establishing their aim point, the competitor may commence firing in accordance with the match conditions.

9.5 'Unload'

On the command 'Unload', the action of the rifle is to be opened, the chamber and the magazine are to be inspected by the competitor to ensure that both are free from live rounds or empty cases.

9.6 'Inspect Firearms'

On the command 'Inspect Firearms', the competitor is to remove the bolt (where possible), and ammunition from the rifle and present the rifle for visual inspection by two safety assistants.

If it is not possible to remove the bolt such as with a slide, pump or lever action, the ejection port is to be in the open position for inspection and the rifle is to be cycled at least twice to show no rounds remaining in the magazine.

Two Safety Officers, starting opposite from each end of the line, will inspect the chamber and the magazine of the rifle, thereby ensuring that both are clear of any live rounds or empty cases. It is not necessary to remove an empty magazine for inspection.

Once inspected, each safety officer will audibly declare each rifle 'Clear' before proceeding to the next one. As the two safety officers meet and their duties overlap, the audible order will change to 'Clear to Remove'. Then and only then, will a shooter be permitted to remove the firearm from the firing mound.

The removed bolt is NOT to be inserted into the rifle unless the rifle and shooter are at a firing point about to commence firing. Once removed the rifle, bolt and other

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accruements are to be moved to behind the firing area and be kept appropriately secured. See - Safe Keeping and Transportation of Firearms.

Where a bolt cannot be conveniently removed a 'Chamber Flag' may also be inserted to indicate an unloaded chamber condition.

10 FIRING POSITIONS

General

No part of the firers feet or body is permitted to be in contact with the firing line or be forward of the firing line, excepting as found in 10.3 (Sitting Position). No hole or depressions may be made in the firing point that would assist the competitor.

10.1 Lying Unsupported (Prone)

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder and all parts of the rifle and the arms below the elbow, including clothing, must be visibly clear of the ground and all other objects. The rifle is to be held with both hands maintaining at all times complete control. If a sling is not used as an aid to steadying the rifle, it may drape to the ground. The rifle and the back of the forward wrist must be physically clear of the ground.

10.1.1 Lying Supported (Assisted Prone)

As in the preceding 9.1 excepting where additional support is provided from the ground to under the back of the forward hand or by use of a bipod is permitted. The rifle is to be held with both hands maintaining at all times complete control.

10.2 Standing Unsupported

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder with all parts of the rifle and shooter clear of all other objects. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control. The body must be erect and standing on both feet and the upper body may lean slightly forward. The elbow of the forward hand may be placed on the hip. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. If not used is to be removed or gathered up so as not to interfere in any way or manner.

10.2.1 Barricade Firing Positions

The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder. The shooter at all times must be aware of close objects that form part of the firing point. The rifle is to be held with both hands, thereby maintaining complete control. Specifically constructed wall type barricades, and objects (man-made or natural). Barricades to be placed on the firing point in the firer's lane, making the firer adopt alternative firing positions as the

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barricades and match instructions dictate. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. If not used is to be removed.

10.3 Sitting Position

The weight of the sitting body is to be supported on the ground. No part of the body above the waist is to touch the ground or any other object. Legs may be parted or crossed and may be on or just in front of the edge of the firing point. The hips are not to be positioned forward of the lane marking pegs or in front of the firing mound. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle, if not it may drape to the ground. The elbows may be placed on or against the knees or legs to support the weight of the rifle. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

10.3.1 Sitting Bench Rest

A suitable support to permit a seated position to be taken with front support for the rifle. The butt of the rifle is held into the shoulder. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle, if not it may drape to the table. The elbows may be placed on or against the table to support the weight of the rifle. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

10.4 Kneeling Unsupported

No part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object except the one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The forward elbow / arm may rest on the knee. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

10.5 Squatting Unsupported

The weight of the body is supported on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. The buttocks are to be below the knees. A sling, if fitted, may be used as an aid to steadying the rifle. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder. The elbows / arms may rest on the knees / legs. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

11 FIELD & CARBINE (RIMFIRE) PROCEDURE

General

Rifles that satisfy the lower velocity, lead only projectile cartridge requirement are permitted for this match and includes any type of action. Permitted calibres are from smallbore up to .75 inch calibre. No sighting shots are permitted. The match is scored on two targets per firing lane which are self-marked. The match is to be conducted from the standing unsupported position with competitors starting at the

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75m firing line, walking down to 50m and then the 25m under control of the Range Officer.

11.1 The match is three serials each of 12 shots, with 6 shots into each target shot in a specific sequence under direction of the Range Officer.

11.1.1 The sequence of shots fired and into which target is as follows;

Load six rounds

- 1 into the left hand target, then 1 into the right hand target

- 2 into the left hand target, then 2 into the right hand target

Reload six rounds, followed by

- 3 into the left hand target, then 3 into the right hand target

11.2 The sequence of shots as called by the Range Officer is the same for each serial. The directions are as follows: 'This match is a walk-down from 75m, then 50m then 25m, you will need 36 rounds with you. You will be directed as to the number of rounds and into which target they will be shot'

'Shooters form a line at the 75m (or 50m or 25m) mark, in line with your targets'

'Shooters LOAD six rounds'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters are to put one round into the left hand target and one round into the right hand target, then wait' in your own time go on.

'Are all shooters finished?'

'Shooters are to put two rounds into the left hand target and two rounds into the right hand target, then wait' in your own time go on.

'Are all shooters finished?'

'Shooters LOAD six rounds'

'Are shooters ready?'

'Shooters are to put three rounds into the left hand target and three rounds into the right hand target, then wait' in your own time, go on.

(At the end of the serial)

"Everyone finished?"

"With chamber clear and action open keep the muzzle pointed down range with the rifle at the carry proceed in a line to the 50m / 25m firing line"

At the next firing line the procedure is followed as set out above. Once all three serials have been completed the directions are as follows;

"Everyone finished?"

"Inspect firearms" (As per 9.6)

"Move forward to score and patch"

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On completion bolts are to be removed from rifles, chamber and magazine confirmed clear and for other action types the rifle is to be cycled at least twice showing no rounds present in the magazine and ejection port is to be open for chamber inspection.

The competitor is to keep their bolt on their person and the rifle in a safe condition to be moved back to the 75m firing line by the Range Officer and/or assistants.

12 CONDUCT OF SHOOTING

General

- Firers will assume firing positions to the left of the lane marker peg.
- When the firing detail is called or the match declared open, the competitors are to setup to the left of the target lane pegs in the allocated firing lane.
- No part of the competitor's body or accoutrements are to encroach into any adjoining firing lane.
- At all times whilst on the mound competitors are under the direct control of the Range Officer whose directions will be followed.

13 DELIBERATE MATCHES

- a) Sighting shots if the match rules permit are convertible.
- b) In individual deliberate matches, competitors will score for each other.
- c) After each shot, the target is to be withdrawn and examined, a spotting disc inserted and the result displayed. If there is no indication of a strike by means of a spotting disc or the target is not examined, either the competitor or the scorer may request the Range Officer to have it examined.
- d) Each score will be indicated by the use of a marking wand. The score will be clearly told to the competitor by the scorer. The onus is on the competitor to ensure that the score is heard and understood. The competitor will then have the option of either challenging the value of the score or continue shooting.
- e) In deliberate matches the recorded score cannot later be disputed if a challenge to the score value was not notified to the Range Officer before the next shot is fired.
- f) On completion of a deliberate match, the scorer is to sign the score card. It is the competitor's responsibility to check the score card for correctness and then counter sign as acceptance of the score. If the competitor fails to sign the score card the right for all later challenges is forfeited.

14 TIMED MATCHES

- a) Sighting shots if the match rules permit are convertible.

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- b) At completion of the match the competitor must advise the Range Officer if there are any protests. If none, the Range Officer will direct that the targets be scored, spotted then displayed.
- c) The scores from the butt register are relayed by radio to the match scorer
- d) If there are any protests, the competitor's target will not be displayed pending resolution of the protest.
- e) A target is not to be patched out until resolution of any protest and / or challenge, and then only by instruction to the Butts Officer from the Range Officer.

15 MARKING AND SCORING

- a) All sighting shots will be individually marked by a spotting disc and displayed for the competitor to observe. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking wand to the scoring area and then value.
- c) During untimed deliberate matches, all shots are to be marked by a spotting disc. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking wand to the scoring area and then value.
- d) For timed matches, all strikes are marked by spotting discs at the completion of the match and displayed to the competitor by means of a 'firer's view'. No marking wand is used.
- e) Spotting disc indications are white on black and coloured (red / florescent) on white or lighter areas of the target. A hit on the non-scoring portion of the target will be indicated but not recorded.
- f) For deliberate matches and for all sighting shots, the targets are engaged with only the spotting disc representing the last shot displayed.
- g) For timed matches, spotting discs will not be placed in the shot holes until the score has been taken.
- h) When a shot hole touches or breaks the line between two divisions of the scoring areas, the competitor will be credited with the higher value. If there is any doubt, the Butts Officer will adjudicate.
- i) Except for deliberate matches, if less than the maximum number of hits allowed are found, at least two markers are to check the target to determine whether two or more shots have struck close together. This check must be carried out before spotting discs are placed in the holes. If there is still doubt, the Butts Officer is to adjudicate.
- j) A ricochet can only be adjudicated by the Butts Officer with consultation to the target marker and will be signalled as a miss. No spotting disc will be shown regardless of whether the bullet has struck the target or not. A shot will not be marked as a ricochet unless there is clear evidence of it striking the mantlet, i.e., debris showered into the gallery or against the target. An elongated hole

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is not by itself evidence of a ricochet and unless clear and distinct evidence is present, the shot is to be marked and scored as normal.

- k) Scoring can either be conducted in the Butts by an independent person with the scores relayed to the mound by radio with the scores then taken at the mound.
- l) When using targets other than figure targets, the scoring area is to be indicated by the use of a marking disc or marking wand as follows:-

15.1 Scoring Area Indication

The Marking Wand to be placed over the Spotting Disc showing the position of strike and then moved to communicate score, as follows;

| | | |
|--------|-----|--|
| V Bull | 5.1 | Indicate centre bottom. |
| Bull | 5 | Indicate lower right hand corner. |
| Inner | 4 | Indicate lower left hand corner. |
| Magpie | 3 | Indicate top right hand corner. |
| Outer | 2 | Indicate top left hand corner. |
| Missed | - | Wand waved across target face several times. |

A spotting disc may be displayed if the strike is outside the scoring area of the target and the score not be recorded.

For Figure Targets the score is to be recorded in the butts, spotting discs inserted, target raised to give a 'firer's view', then on withdrawing patch out holes.

16 CHALLENGES

During deliberate practices and during sighting shots for all other practices, the signalled value of a hit may be challenged once only, before any other shot has been fired at the same target. The number of hits or the score shown may be challenged only once, when the target is raised at the completion of a match with the spotting discs in position. On receipt of a challenge, the target is to be lowered and the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target, after which the following is to occur:

- a) if the challenge is for a hit or more hits, the hit or miss will be signalled as usual, and
- b) if the challenge is for a higher value, the correct value will be signalled whether it has been signalled or not.

For timed matches, the competitor must advise the Range officer if there is a challenge, upon completion of the practice. This is the final opportunity for a challenge and if received the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target after which the following is to occur;

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- a) If the challenge is for the total number of hits, the target is to be examined and raised with the spotting discs showing and the competitor advised of the decision.
- b) If the challenge is for spotting discs showing do not match the relayed score, the target is to be examined and raised with the correct number of spotting discs showing, if possible.

17 PROTESTS

Any claim or complaint arising at the firing point is to be made at once by way of a protest to the Range Officer. If the resulting decision is disputed, or if the protest is not dealt with on the spot, it must as soon as practicable and not more than 2 hours later be put in writing by the competitor or team and handed to a representative of the 18Bn MRC. If necessary, the 18Bn MRC will convene a Disputes Committee to deal with the protest. At the completion of every timed match, the competitor must advise the Range Officer if there are any protests. A protest must be lodged before the targets are exposed for a 'Firer's View'. A protest may consist of, but not limited to, the following;

- a) During snap matches, the target may be slow in being exposed, short exposure, not steady, break, or fail to be exposed. If the protest is upheld, the competitor is to be granted an additional exposure / s or a re-shoot of the match at the discretion of the Competition Director or the senior Range Officer.
- b) During rapid matches, the target may be slow in being exposed, short exposure, not steady, break, or fail to be exposed. If the protest is upheld, the competitor is to be granted a re-shoot of the match in its entirety.

18 EXCESS HITS

When, in any practice or series of practices, the total number of hits on a competitor's target or targets exceeds the number of shots fired and when there is no means of discriminating between these shots based on the order of their arrival or calibre, the procedure will then be as follows;

- a) If it can be proved that the excess hits were made by the competitor or team deliberately firing more than the total number of shots allowed in the match, the score will be disallowed and the penalty may be disqualification.
- b) When the total number of excess hits does not exceed two, the score will be the highest score up to the number of shots permitted to be fired in the practice. The hits of the lowest value will be deemed excess and are to be disregarded.
- c) When the number of excess hits exceeds two for a single target, the score may be cancelled and the competitor is to be advised The target is to be patched

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out and NOT to be shown with spotting discs in place and the score is NOT to be advised to the competitor.

- d) When a competitor has more than one target to engage, and there is no excess in the total number of hits, but there are more hits on one particular target than are allowed by the match conditions, the extra hits on this target will be dealt with as outlined in sub-paragraph 17.1.b.
- e) When different targets are used at different times throughout a practice, the score made on the target without excess hits will stand, the above rules will only apply to a target with excess hits.

18.1 Firing on Wrong Target

If it is observed that a firer is firing on the wrong target, the Range Officer will stop the non-offending and offending competitors at the earliest possible moment. The Range Officer will then determine if a re-shoot is required for both competitors.

19 TIMING

19.1 A stop-watch, clock or electronic timer is to be used for the timing of exposures or the duration of firing. Target exposures are to be timed by the Butts Officer or their nominated timer.

- a) The timing window for mechanical targets start when the target is in the up position and stops when the target begins to fall. Shots fired on the target on the upward movement and after the target begins the downward movement are outside the window and should not be scored.
- b) When timing is carried out at the firing point for ranges that do not have butts or mechanical targets, an electronic or pneumatic horn (or the like) is to be sounded as the signal to indicate the start and end of the time limit except when stated otherwise in the match conditions. The beginning of the horn indicates the start of the exposure and the beginning of the second horn marks the end of the exposure. This rule applies to those timed practices where fixed targets are used and the time limit is indicated by a horn or other device. No penalty will be imposed when a single round is fired during the indication, but all subsequent rounds will incur a penalty.

19.2 Deliberate Practice

In a deliberate rifle practice the time allowed for a competitor to fire a shot is 20 or 45 seconds depending on the match rules. This time is taken from the Range Officer's order to 'Go on' in the case of the first shot, and from the time the target is raised in the case of all subsequent shots.

Neither adjustment of sights, nor firearm malfunction, nor shooter unpreparedness is to be allowed as a cause of delay. Any competitor who exceeds this time limit

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will, after being cautioned and timed will forfeit the value of any subsequent shot where the time limit is exceeded.

19.3 Timed Exposures

In a timed exposure the raising and lowering of targets is to be carried out as quickly as possible. In all types of practices the exposure will be timed from the moment the last target is up and stationary until the time it is lowered. No oral indication as to how the time is passing is allowed except where match conditions permit such.

20 DISTURBANCE

20.1 No person is to deliberately make any noise that is likely to affect a firer during the conduct of a match.

- a) Where a firer or team before a match or competition commences wishes to make a protest about the conduct of the match, or match conditions, they must inform the Range Officer accordingly.
- b) If a competitor has a protest during the conduct of a match, it may be necessary to inform the Range Officer of the protest quickly; that is, during rapid and snap practices or if the firer cannot gain their attention. In such cases the firer is to unload and make-safe the firearm then call 'Protest' and raise their arm, or raise their leg if in the prone position.
- c) At the completion of the match the competitor is to make themselves known and identify the nature of the protest as per 16.

20.2 Team Reserves

- a) Reserves may only be employed if a member of the team sustains an injury and is unable to continue. The organiser is to approve nominated substitutes / reserves prior to the match at time of sign-in. The injured member can return to the competition and complete the remaining individual matches once the injury has healed or illness passed sufficiently.
- b) Where team scores are an aggregate of a number of individual matches, the scores for the matches completed by the injured member are to stand, and the scores achieved by the replacement member are to be attributed to remaining matches for the aggregate. The injured member can return to the team once they have recovered.

21 TIED SCORES - 'COUNT BACK'

In all matches with a tied score the winner is determined by counting back from the last shot fired. The competitor with the last shot of a higher value is the winner. If

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the scores are still tied, the second last shot is considered, then the third last shot and so on.

If the tie remains unresolved, a shoot-off consisting of a non-convertible sighting shot is followed by five scoring shots. If still equal, the competitors are to fire shot for shot until the tie is broken.

For an aggregate, the count back is to be applied from the last match, and if still not resolved, the second last match and so on.

Following any determination due to tied scores, the original match scores are to be the competition record, not the re-shoot scores. Re-shoot scores only apply for the purpose of determining a winner.

22 DANGEROUS ACT

For any dangerous act, the competitor will be immediately stopped from firing any more rounds by the Range Officer and ordered to 'unload' and 'make safe' the firearm ready for inspection. If the competitor is disqualified, they will remove themselves from the mound and the match score will be forfeited. Investigation of the 'dangerous act' will be initiated by the 18Bn MRC immediately, and the competitor advised of any further action taken. If the dangerous act was not at the completion of the practice and in the opinion of the investigating body, the disqualification cannot be substantiated, the competitor will be permitted to re-shoot the match.

No competitor, range staff or any others are to go forward of the firing line or up from the butts on to the range at any time while the range is deemed to be OPEN by the Range Officer.

23 DISQUALIFICATION

A competitor and / or team disqualification can only be as a result of an investigation initiated by the 18Bn MRC on a recommendation of the Range Officer.

Disqualification will be automatic for any substantiated dangerous act, deliberate cheating, breach of safety protocols or committing an intentional breach of the rules whereby the offending competitor and / or team gains an advantage and / or safety is put at risk.

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The disqualification can apply to the whole or a part of the competition, or to the match in which the transgression occurs pending the results and recommendations from the investigative process.

Disqualification will be adjudicated upon by the Range Officer if the breach is eminently clear in the first instance and / or the 18Bn MRC should the Range Officer elect to escalate the matter.

This rule applies to those timed practices where fixed targets are used and the time limit is indicated by a horn or other device. For firing after the time limit a competitor will have deducted from their score the maximum number of points that could have been scored by the shots fired after the time limit. If this results in a minus quantity the score will be recorded as NIL. No penalty will be imposed when a single round is fired during the indication, but all subsequent rounds will incur a penalty.

24 UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE (UD)

A UD can fall into two categories, an accidental discharge and a negligent discharge.

Negligent Discharge

Is a shot fired before the command to fire having been given or after the command to stop firing. It is also any shot fired in an unsafe direction. An unsafe direction is determined as being outside of the range safety template.

If a negligent discharge occurs on the mound, the RO should take the following action:

- Take all actions to make the situation safe. (e.g. Unload, inspect firearm)
- Confirm the circumstances as to why the shooter has fired.
- Suspend the shooter from all further shooting activities and refer them to the 18Bn MRC Committee for investigation and any disciplinary action.

If the negligent discharge occurs off the mound (e.g. in the car park), the RO should take the following action:

- Give the command CEASE FIRE and UNLOAD if shooters are on the mound
- Appoint a SA to supervise the mound
- Take all actions to make the situation safe at the site or area of the discharge
- Confirm the circumstances as to why the discharge occurred
- Suspend the shooter from all further shooting activities and refer them to the 18Bn MRC Committee for investigation and any disciplinary action.

Accidental Discharge

Is any shot fired that the shooter did not intend to fire - after the command to fire having been given and before the command to stop firing while the rifle was pointed

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in a safe direction – being within the range safety template.

E.G. This could occur as part of a malfunction while chambering a round.

The RO should take the following action:

- Take all actions to make the situation safe. (e.g. Unload, inspect firearm)
- Confirm the circumstances as to why the AD occurred

All UD's require the RO to understand the circumstances of the discharge and to determine if there was a breach of safety and if so the seriousness of the breach. All UD's regardless of the seriousness of the situation must be reported to the 18Bn MRC Committee.

25 INSPECTION OF RIFLES

Prior to the competition starting, at the discretion of the RO, all rifles may be inspected by suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicators from the 18Bn MRC. Each rifle that is deemed fit for competition purposes by meeting the requirements of its respective class, is to have some visible means of recognition displaying the fact. Any competitor who uses a rifle in the competition that does not show the correct recognition displayed is liable to disqualification.

Each competitor is permitted to have only one rifle inspected for the competition. If that inspected rifle fails or becomes unserviceable in the eyes of the Range Officer or a suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicator from the 18Bn MRC, then, and only then, will the competitor be allowed to use a replacement rifle. The replacement rifle is to have the same visible means of recognition applied.

26 ILLEGAL MODIFICATION OF RIFLE

If any modification to a rifle, defined as any modification / addition, which has the potential to change the class of a rifle, is found after the competitor has commenced or fired a match, the score will be forfeit and an adjudication made by the Range Officer and / or the 18Bn MRC as to disqualification.

27 COURSE OF FIRE

The planned course of fire is to be promulgated before the competition and may be modified by the convening body to suit local circumstances. When the convening body plans the course of fire, the match conditions are to be adhered to for all deliberate and timed matches.

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28 PHYSICAL HANDICAP / IMPAIRMENT

If a competitor is suffering from physical impairment or handicap that precludes firing from the designated position, they are permitted with the agreement of the Range Officer to fire the match from another shooting position.

A bench is a designated shooting position that can be substituted for any other position on approval of the Range Officer. Also note, the physical handicap / impairment of the competitor must not affect safe handling of the rifle.

A competitor who has lost the effective use of a hand may, after obtaining approval from the Club, use an artificial rest to support the fore end of the rifle.

A competitor who is unable to comply with the match conditions due to physical disability or impairment may be permitted to shoot if in the opinion of the Club they are able to comply with the safety rules and obtain no advantage over any other competitor.

Where a competitor is non-ambulatory, i.e., in a wheel chair or on sticks, they are to be provided such support as is practicable to permit safe, enjoyable participation.

29 TARGETS

Targets used will be;

- a) Type A, B, D, and Figure 11, 12, 13 and 14
- b) Modified ICFRA targets
- c) Any as nominated by the Club or in match rules.

For the Field & Carbine walk-down match two targets of the Field & Carbine design per firing lane will be used.

Where match conditions specify '5 and 4' or 'hit and miss' scoring on Figure targets then Classic target patterns are to be used.

In Black Powder matches armour steel gongs can be used.

Class and Application of Target

- a) There are three Classes of target;
Third Class - 1200mm x 1200mm

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Second Class - 1800mm x 1800mm

First Class - 2400mm x 1800mm.

b) The class of target to be applied at the following distances;

Third Class - 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m

Second Class - 500m, 600m

First Class - 700m, 800m.

All Type A, B, D, and Figure 11, 12, 13 and 14 targets will have scoring rings printed or inscribed where appropriate either directly as part of the face or by adhesive decal.

All targets will have at the centre point a white circular patch no greater than 18mm (3/4 inch) applied and when struck will be indicated as a pin-hole. There is no award unless indicated in match conditions promulgated by the organisers.

Electronic Targets

When electronic targets are in use it is permissible to use targets with First Class or Second Class dimensions at all distances.

When shooting Service Rifle Matches up to 300m on electronic targets the following upgrading of scoring rings to Modified ICFRA is to occur.

100m, 200m & 300m - Use 500m centres and 500m scoring on computers.

30 GRADING

Common Grading Match

All member grades will shot with a Standard Class SR'a' firearm, no less than two times during the shooting year over 200m and 300m in a deliberate application match. If the member does not own a suitable rifle the Club will provide it. It is to be presumed, until two grading shoots have been recorded the member is 'A' Grade'.

Any appropriate match can be considered a Grade Shoot as set out in the match rules applicable. The member is to nominate at commencement to the scorer that that particular match is to be considered for grading purposes.

In cases of new competitors or a member who has not completed the required number of grading shoots to be awarded a Club grading within the grading period, then the Club Captain or Statistician shall award a grading commensurate to the competitor's ability.

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Competitors from any other association not possessing proof of a grade or grading card will automatically be awarded a grading of 'A'. Temporary members are welcome to attend and compete but will not be eligible for prizes and awards.

Any competitor graded as either 'B' or 'C' grade who enters and wins an aggregate event with a score that exceeds the average of all in their grade, will be upgraded to the next highest grade. The upgrading will apply from the conclusion of the day for a period of twelve months.

Once a competitor has been graded to 'A' grade, they cannot return to 'C' grade until they have spent a period of one year in 'B' Grade.

The awarding of a Club Grading to a member will be on a percentage basis of the maximum score from two matches totalling 100.20;

'A' GRADE score will be $\geq 80\% = 80$ to 100

'B' GRADE score will be $\geq 60\% < 80\% = 60$ to 79

'C' GRADE score will be $< 60\% = 0$ to 59.

Note that, should the maximum score be either 59 or 79 with 10 or more 'V' centre bulls, then one point shall be added lifting the grade up one level.

31 MAKE UP SHOTS

Make up shots in any practice or competition are not allowed. If you do not get the required number of shots away because you ran out of time or you had a malfunction, you cannot request of the RO to make up those shots.

32 PRACTICE TARGET AND PRACTICE LANE

A practice lane (usually lane 14) will be set aside for shooters that do not wish to participate in a competition or wish to zero a rifle or just practice. If a competition is in progress, the practice lane target should only be exposed and be fired upon while the competition is occurring. In between series of a competition, while scores are being received and/or instructions being given by the RO for the next series, the shooter on the practice lane must not fire on the practice target. This is to allow the competitors to hear the instructions from the RO.

33 MOBILE PHONE USAGE

Whilst on the mound shooting or in the butts, phones must not be used for any reason (emergency exempt).

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Photos of the range facility, shooters and equipment is prohibited and must not be published on any social media. This is for the security of all members and their equipment and to avoid negative publicity for shooting sports.

18BN MRC - RANGE INFORMATION GENERAL

General

1. The North Shore Regional Target Shooting Complex, also known as Hornsby Rifle Range, consists of the Main Range (800m), Multi-Use Range(100m) and Smallbore Range (50m). In the area adjoining the range, on the right as you drive in, is located various Club Huts, ablutions block and car parking.

Range Staff

2. Range Staff are supporting personnel and their duties are as follows:

a. Range Officer.

The RO is in overall control of the safe conduct of the range in use and responsible for all orders given. Where more than one range is concurrently in use they will liaise directly and / or by radio with the other Range Officer/s.

b. Safety Assistant

The SA is a Club member appointed by the RO to assist the RO in the execution of their duty and reports directly to the RO..

c. Ammunition Control.

AC will be a Club member who is licenced as an Armourer to issue and record ammunition issue and / or sales.

d. Butts Officer.

The BO is responsible for the control of target exposures and / or scoring as required by the practice and the safe conduct of the butts.

e. Match Umpire.

The Match Umpire, if appointed, is to oversee the conduct of the match to ensure it is run in accordance with the rules and match details and is to process all challenges and protests.

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f. Scorers.

Scorers are to transfer the verbal, written or visual scores to the score cards and are to ensure that the individual or team captain signs for the number of hits.

g. Time Keeper.

The Time Keeper, where appointed, is to ensure that the exposure timings are in accordance with the match details and indicate the exposures by voice, whistle or horn.

h. Marshals.

Marshals, where appointed, are to organise the next detail, scrutinise equipment and conduct trigger tests.

Location of Waiting Areas / Toilets

Designated waiting areas are identifiable at each range where set out. Toilets and showers are available at the Club Hut area.

Location of Administration Areas / Rubbish

Rubbish is to be taken with you and disposed of in a suitable bin. Rubbish bins are also located at the toilets, butts and target shed.

Location of Smoking Areas

Smoking may be conducted in waiting areas away from the firing line. There is to be **NO SMOKING WITHIN 6 METRES OF ANY AMMUNITION POINT OR WHERE BLACKPOWDER IS LOCATED.**

Bushfire

Where a bushfire is occurring within or adjacent to the range danger zone shooting is to cease, all people present to be accounted for and in an orderly manner retire to a safe area.

First Aid Kits - Location

A First Aid Kit is located with the Range Officer and there is another First Aid Kit in the butts shed and also in the Club house. A list of first aid certified members is located in the Club house.

Designated Medic

Those with first aid training will provide first aid for any casualties assisting as required.

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Medical Evacuation Plan

The practice will be stopped, firearms unloaded and cleared. First Aid will be applied and if warranted by delay of an Ambulance, evacuate the casualty as required. The closest emergency department is at Hornsby Hospital. There are no emergency facilities at Mt. Wilga Rehabilitation hospital.

Safety Vehicle and Route to be taken.

A nominated Safety Vehicle is to be located on the range. The route taken for evacuation is along Rosamond Street, then to the Hornsby town centre, into Edgeworth David Avenue then to Hornsby Hospital. Safety vehicle drivers are to be familiar with the evacuation route.

Firearm Handling

At all times when the rifle is not on the firing line in use, firearm handling is to in accordance with best safe practice. The bolt is to be removed and for slide / pump or lever actions the action must remain open, if appropriate a chamber flag may be used.

A firearm will only be operated on the firing line with the approval of the RO.

Action on Muzzle Blockage

If at any time the firearm is dropped and / or the muzzle becomes blocked, the firearm IS NOT to be fired until the muzzle / barrel is proved clear of any foreign matter to the satisfaction of the Range Officer.

Action on Malfunction or Prolonged Stoppage

Firearms which malfunction on a firing point are to be unloaded and inspected clear before they are removed and / or repaired. If in a fire with movement match, the safety catch is to be applied and the firer will move with the detail. Where the firearm cannot be unloaded and cleared, because of a malfunction, it is to remain pointing down range until cleared.

CEASE FIRE or STOP STOP STOP

On the command cease fire or stop stop stop - all shooting should cease immediately, shooters must remove bolts and unload firearms.

The cease fire command must be communicated to the BO and all targets lowered.

Cease fire or stop can be announced by ANY person on a range when they see an

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unsafe act or an emerging potential for an unsafe act to occur – e.g. encroachment by people into the range area.

The RO should then decide on a further course of action.

If the RO decides that shooters can remain on the mound with bolts removed and firearms unloaded, the RO must monitor that shooters do not fiddle with ammunition, bolts or take sight pictures.

If unauthorised people are forward of the mound in the range area, rifles must be unloaded, cleared twice and removed from the mound and the range immediately CLOSED.

BLACK POWDER FIREARMS

In addition to the safe shooting rules for all firearms, blackpowder firearms have some additional safety requirements that must be followed due to the nature of blackpowder propellant.

- NO SMOKING ON THE FIRING LINE
- FIREARM/S IN USE MUST BE UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES
- BLACK POWDER HANDLING ONLY TO OCCUR ON THE FIRING LINE AS INSTRUCTED BY THE RANGE OFFICER
- BULK BLACK POWDER AND CAPS MUST BE IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONTAINERS
- BLACK POWDER CAN BE MADE UP INTO CHARGE CARTRIDGES OR DISPENSED FROM MEASURING FLASKS
- DO NOT MIX DIFFERENT BRANDS OR CLASSES OF BLACK POWDER!

1 - Use only Black Powder or substitute powder. DO NOT use smokeless powder in muzzle loading firearms

2 - Once primed and / or capped, a loaded firearm must always be;

- pointed down range towards the target
- closely attended at all times and
- held by the shooter until discharged.

3 - An unloaded Muzzle Loading rifle must be carried with the muzzle pointing up. Unloaded Cartridge Rifles are to have their breech open.

4 - Before leaving the firing line secure paper cartridges, powder measure and caps in your range box or sealed bag. Once ready to leave obtain a "Clear to Remove" from a safety officer before stepping off the firing line. NO CLEANING TO OCCUR ON THE FIRING LINE

5 - Powder must always be in a closed container, horn or flask except when filling the powder measure or charging the firearm. Be certain of the charge weight as mass volumes differ between brands and grades of Black Powder and substitutes.

6 - Powder must be kept in the original factory container until put in a horn, flask, powder measure, charger, or cartridge. Use only unbreakable static-free original containers.

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7 – Percussion shooters are allowed one container of Black Powder with a maximum quantity sufficient for the match being shot in a single horn or flask on the firing line. Flintlock shooters no more than two clearly marked horns or flasks are allowed at any one time, i.e.: 1 of FFG (2F) and 1 of FFFFG (4F). All other powder and cap containers must be sealed and in a closed range box (or sealed bag) and kept off the firing line.

8 – The filling of horns, flasks, multiple pre-measure devices, etc. must be done well behind the firing line.

9 - DO NOT pour powder from a powder container directly into the muzzle or bore of any muzzleloader, ALWAYS use a powder measure or pre-measured paper cartridges.

10 - DO NOT bring powder containers of any sort into the club house.

11 - Percussion caps must always be kept in the original (unbreakable) factory containers. Shooters are allowed one tin of percussion caps on the firing line at a time. All other percussion cap containers must be in a closed range box (or sealed bag) kept behind the firing line. No handling of caps or capping devices except when priming the firearm. No loose caps allowed – keep them contained and covered.

12 - It is recommended that percussion caps be dispensed from a capper or holder. If the shooter does not have one then use one cap from the container at a time resealing the container before shooting.

13 - Paper cartridges must be kept in a closed container or pouch until one is removed for use. DO NOT carry loaded paper cartridges in your pockets.

14 - A powder measure may be used to charge the firearm. NEVER load directly from a bulk-container, free-flowing horn or flask into the bore. Pre-set measuring charger horns and flasks and pre-loaded cartridges meet this need. TO DETERMINE MASS VOLUME ACCURACY OF THE HORN / FLASK MEASURE THEN WEIGH SEVERAL CHARGES.

15 - NEVER EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED POWDER CHARGE AS SHOWN IN YOUR RIFLE INSTRUCTION MANUAL or RELOADING BOOK.

16 - Ramrods, swabbing and loading rods should be clearly marked to indicate when inserted for their full length either an “Empty” or “Loaded” condition.

17 - When loading, be certain the powder, patch and projectile are in their proper sequence and that THEY ARE COMPLETELY SEATED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER - NO AIR GAPS - making sure “POWDER > PATCH > BALL”.

18 - Keep body parts well away from the muzzle while loading. ANGLE THE MUZZLE AWAY FROM THE FACE AND BODY WHEN LOADING.

19 - Be aware of your surroundings. Only expose powder if the adjacent shooters is not ready to fire. Also, only fire if the adjacent shooter does not have powder exposed or is otherwise

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unprepared. LOOK LEFT, LOOK RIGHT IF POWDER IS EXPOSED OR LOADING IS UNDERWAY, WAIT, DO NOT FIRE.

20 - Flintlock shooters should never fire if adjacent shooters have powder exposed.

21 - Flintlock shooters must notify shooters on the touchhole side of the muzzleloader before firing. Calling out “Fire in the hole!” or “Flint” a few seconds before firing - this is encouraged.

22 - Only load, prime or cap when you are instructed to do so by the Range Officer on the firing line keeping the firearm pointed downrange once loaded.

23 - Clean loading AND firing benches of all spilled powder before continuing. Powder spilled on the ground must be well scattered before continuing.

24 - Flints must never be knapped in the cock when the muzzleloader is charged. It is recommended to change out the old flint with a newly knapped one instead beforehand.

25 - Do not try to beat the “one minute” cease fire warning. Don’t start loading after the “one minute” has been called.

26 - If your muzzleloader is loaded and / or primed / capped when a cease-fire is called raise your hand, keeping the muzzle pointed down-range and wait for the attention of the Range Officer. You may only fire after the cease-fire has been called with specific permission from the Range Officer. Stay pointed down range and follow the instructions of the Range Officer.

27 - In the circumstance you do not discharge your muzzleloader either;

- a. the percussion cap must be removed and the hammer is placed at half cock or
- b. the frizzen must be emptied wiped and the cock placed down to the pan, then
- c. place the un-primed partially “loaded” muzzleloader in the gun rack or loading rack, muzzle up. A good practice is to tag a piece of red or orange material to or into the muzzle to indicate a partial load. If there is no gun rack then the load must be discharged safely down range.

28 - As a safety check having removed the percussion cap / emptied the frizzen and wiped it out, place the ramrod in the bore resting on top of the ball, patch and charge to confirm to yourself that the muzzleloader has been charged and is loaded. Once a cease-fire is called DO NOT fire without specific permission from the Range Officer.

29 - Keep the firearm pointed down range - follow the instructions of the Range Officer.

30 - If you have a misfire keep the firearm safely pointed down range until it is made safe. Wait at least 3 minutes after the last attempt to fire the muzzleloader before moving away from the firing line with the muzzle pointed upwards at all times.

31 - Loads that need to be pulled must be brought to the attention of the Range Officer and handled according to their instructions. If possible, loads that need to be pulled will be taken off the firing line while being worked on.

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32 - Carbon dioxide gas (CO2) dischargers may be used to remove powder loads on the firing line under supervision of the Range Officer.

33 - No blowing down the barrel - There will be NO BLOWING DOWN THE MUZZLE of any firearm during matches in any manner that places the head in front of the muzzle.

34 - It is recommended for Muzzleloaders that the bore be damp wiped between shots or a flexible blow tube may be used at the shooter's option providing that the shooter's head is not placed near or in front of the muzzle.

35 - Cap and Ball rifles may be loaded and sealed but must not be Capped and placed in loading stands in the cordoned off Safety Area behind the firing line.

36 - Cap & Ball cylinders and percussion rifles MUST only be capped and flintlocks primed on the firing line, pointed downrange. DO NOT carry any capped revolver rifle, cylinder or primed flintlock around.

37 - Muzzleloaders shall be unloaded and grounded (loading stand) or racked or bagged during cease fires. Percussion hammers to be at half cock to show that that there is no cap present and flint lock cocks shall be in the fired position.

38 - All muzzleloaders, cartridge rifles, revolver rifles will be loaded with "ONE" ball, maxi, Minie or projectile per bore or cylinder. There will be NO double balling.