

# National Rifle Association of Australia

## Chapter 16

### SERVICE RIFLE SHOOTING

#### **16.1 Introduction**

- 16.1.1 These rules specify the procedures that are to be followed in all Club, District, State and National Open events. Competitions are to be conducted with regards to the convening body offering four classes of rifle for competition purposes, namely, Standard, Modified, Sniper and Open Class.
- 16.1.2 Where a competitor wishes to challenge the organiser's determination of class of rifle, it is the competitors responsibility to provide acceptable written proof of his claim. However, the organiser's decision after considering any claim shall be binding for the purposes of the event in question.
- 16.1.3 These rules may be modified for Club, District and Club level events at the discretion of the local organising body with regard to modification of rifle, dress and equipment, conduct of shooting, marking and scoring and the method of exposing the targets only.

#### **16.2 Class of Rifle**

##### **16.2.1 STANDARD CLASS**

Military type rifles with turn bolt, straight-pull or hinged block actions that meet the following criteria may be used in Standard Class:

- a. The rifle must have been on general service issue within the defence forces of a nation (excluding sniper rifles), to the soldier, sailor, airman or marine.
- b. The rifle must be externally complete as issued with the stock, sights, barrel and sling being of original service pattern. Replacement barrels need not have bayonet lugs but must be of the original service profile. Faithful reproduction stocks and slings are permitted provided the rifle is still externally complete as issued.
- c. The calibre of ammunition used in the rifle must be one of the original service issued calibres.

##### **16.2.2 MODIFIED CLASS**

Modified Class firearms include military type Bolt Action rifles that differ from the Standard Class definition by virtue of being of non-original calibre, modified stocking, after-market sights (non optical), barrels of different original service profile, recoil pads, magazine adaptations and military type sling.

##### **16.2.3 SNIPER CLASS**

Only original genuine issue military sniper rifles, or faithful reproductions, may be used in this class.

##### **16.2.3.1 A faithful reproduction is defined as:**

- a. Any rifle that is made up of a collection of non original after market spares.
- b. The rifle must be externally complete as issued.

##### **16.2.4 OPEN CLASS**

Open Class firearms include any rifle with any sighting system that is clearly not of original military heritage/style.

#### **16.3 Rifle Components**

##### **16.3.1 Sights**

- 16.3.1.1 **Standard:** There is to be no adjustment of the foresight upon the commencement of the match. The match is deemed to have commenced from the firing of the first sighting shot. The rear sight may be adjusted for both elevation and wind during the course of the match, provided the rifle is as issued. If the rear sight is of the aperture style, i.e., Lee Enfield No4, no non standard device is permitted to be introduced into the aperture that will reduce the size of the aperture. Sights may be blackened, or definition applied to the rear of the foresight, i.e., a colour that is intended to stand out against the target, but no non original fittings or fixtures may be used to shade the sights or alter the originality of the rifle. Back sight lenses or filters are not permitted.
- 16.3.1.2 **Modified Class:** Any modified rifle that is fitted with an adjustable rear sight wind arm, e.g., Central Sight, is permitted to be adjusted for wind and elevation during the course of the match. There is to be no adjustment of the foresight upon the commencement of the match. The match is deemed to have commenced from the firing of the first sighting shot.
- 16.3.1.3 **Open Class:** There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments.
- 16.3.1.4 **Sniper Class:** There is no restriction applied to sight adjustments.

### **16.3.2 Slings**

16.3.2.1 **Standard, Modified and Sniper Class:** A sling if fitted may be used as an aid to steadiness. There is no necessity for the sling to have been on general service issue to the particular rifle being used but it must be of a service type/style or faithful reproduction. It may be attached to either one or two sling swivels or fixing points. The sling may be placed around one arm and/or wrist but not around any other part of the firer's body. The sling may be wrapped around the fore end of the rifle. The sling must not be attached to the rifle in such a manner as to prevent the firer from carrying out weapon handling drills safely. If a sling is fitted and not used, it may drape on the ground.

**Additional note for Lee Enfield's:** Use of the Competition Sling Swivel, also known as the Kingscrew Swivel, is not as issued. This swivel was an accessory for target rifle shooters and snipers. It may be fitted but not used on a Standard Class firearm. It may however be used on Modified Class, Open and Sniper Class firearms.

16.3.2.2 **Open Class:** There are no sling type or style restrictions but the safety criteria for carrying out weapon handling drills safely are paramount.

### **16.3.3 Triggers**

16.3.3.1 **Standard, Modified and Sniper Class:** All triggers shall have a minimum trigger weight of 1.5kg.

16.3.3.2 Match triggers are not permitted in Standard, Modified or Sniper Class, but no restrictions apply to Open Class.

### **16.3.4 Safety Catch**

16.3.4.1 If originally fitted, all rifles are to have a functioning safety catch.

### **16.3.5 Barrels**

16.3.5.1 As per the provisions of 3.1.4.2, muzzle brakes/blast deflectors are not permitted to be used on any class of rifle. Muzzle brakes/blast deflectors are not to be confused with flash eliminators.

## **16.4 Dress and Equipment**

### **16.4.1 Clothing:**

16.4.1.1 All clothing must be of a soft, flexible and pliable material, which does not materially change its physical characteristics under commonly encountered shooting conditions. These same general specifications apply to any lining, seam and any normal tailoring reinforcements. The clothing worn would be normally described as street or field clothing and may be of a suitable robust construction for the purpose intended.

16.4.1.2 Specially constructed shooting coats, jackets, trousers, (as used in Small Bore and Full Bore) etc, are not permitted.

16.4.1.3 Elbow and shoulder pads may be sewn onto or strapped to the outer garments but must not be more extensive than is necessary to protect the elbow and shoulder area. No other padding is permitted.

16.4.1.4 Any straps, buttons, cuffs, hooks, laces, pockets, bindings, or any other device, whether a normal part of the garments construction or not, that may be construed as providing artificial support for the rifle, sling or competitors limbs or torso, are not permitted in either the outer or under garments.

16.4.1.5 **Footwear:** Full cover footwear must be worn at all times. Bare feet, thongs, sandals, etc, are not permitted on the firing mound or in the butts.

16.4.1.6 **Headgear:** Specialist Target Rifle shooting hats are not to be worn. Should a competitor accidentally lose their hat forward of the firing mound during the practice, they are not to retrieve it until the practice is complete and all rifles are cleared. If the headdress is lost to the sides or to the rear, the competitor may retrieve it, provided it is safe to do so.

16.4.1.7 **Wet Weather Gear:** Wet weather clothing may be worn but must not be more extensive than is necessary.

### **16.4.2 Hearing Protection**

16.4.2.1 Hearing protection is mandatory for all competitors and range staff whilst on the firing mound. It is recommended that competitors, range staff and observers, wear appropriate hearing protection whilst in the vicinity of the firing mound or in the butts.

### **16.4.3 Gloves**

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

#### **16.4.4 Ground Sheets**

- 16.4.4.1 A ground sheet may be used in all courses of fire for the protection of the competitors clothing and/or equipment, provided that it is not constructed or used in such a way as to provide artificial support for the competitor's rifle.
- 16.4.4.2 Target/specialist shooting mats are not permitted to be used in their intended manner where the firing mound is of a natural material, eg, grass or dirt. They may however be used provided they are turned around 180 degrees.
- 16.4.4.3 Target/specialist shooting mats, rubber underlay, or any other suitable protective material are permitted to be used in their intended manner on ranges that have mounds manufactured from hard and inflexible material, e.g., concrete, bitumen.

#### **16.4.5 Shooting Glasses**

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

#### **16.4.6 Optical Aids**

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

#### **16.5 Ammunition**

- 16.5.1 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that the ammunition used, e.g., military surplus, factory loaded and hand loaded, is permitted provided that the projectile and calibre are allowable on the range of firing and in accordance with the prescribed match conditions.
- 16.5.2 Hand loaded ammunition may be assembled with any commercially available component. Projectile type and mass may vary from original specifications provided it is of the correct calibre.
- 16.5.3 Ammunition may be scrutinised at the convening body's discretion and the Range Officer has the right to disallow and remove any competitor's ammunition that is in his considered opinion to be defective or unsafe to be fired. The onus for future use is then upon the competitor.
- 16.5.3.1 If the Range officer does disallow and remove any ammunition from a competitor, it is to be returned to the competitor at the completion of the competition.

#### **16.6 Rifle Functioning, Safety and Readiness Orders**

##### **16.6.1 Misfires, Jams and Breakages**

- 16.6.1.1 Competitors are required to use the same rifle for all matches. Where a rifle becomes unserviceable because of mechanical failure or for safety reasons, verified by the Range officer or a knowledgeable adjudicator from the organising body, 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 by the firer.
- 16.6.1.2 For a misfired round during deliberate matches or sighting shots, a competitor 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.
- 16.6.1.3 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.

##### **16.7 Trigger Testing**

- 16.7.1 When, and if triggers are tested, they are to be randomly tested at the completion of an individual serial and at the convening body's discretion. If a rifle fails the 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 still fails, 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.
- 16.7.2 Dry firing with an unloaded rifle may only be done from the firing mound provided no one is in front of the firing point. The rifle must be cleared safe before the competitor retires from the mound with that rifle.

#### **16.8 Firing Point Readiness Orders**

##### **16.8.1 'Load'**

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

- 16.8.1.2 Before a walkdown match, the rounds are to be depressed into the magazine and the action is to be open. The Range Officer is to ensure that this action is carried out before the competitors depart from each firing point. The muzzle is to be directed towards the butts area and the trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard.
- 16.8.2 ***'Action'***  
On the command 'Action', competitors are to close the action in a manner that feeds a round into the chamber. The rifle is to be in the shoulder whilst chambering a round with the muzzle pointed towards the butts area. The trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard.
- 16.8.3 ***'Is There Anyone Not Ready'***  
If the competitor is not ready to commence the practice, i.e., not in the action condition, they are to indicate to the Range Officer in an appropriate and safe manner.
- 16.8.4 ***'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 targets, the competitor may commence firing in accordance with the match conditions.
- 16.8.5 ***'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.
- 16.8.6 ***'Inspect Firearms'***  
On the command 'Inspect Firearms', the competitor is to remove the bolt from the rifle if possible, and present the rifle for visual inspection by the range safety staff. If not possible, the action is to be in the open position for inspection by the range safety staff. There are to be two safety officers who, starting from each end of the line, will each independently inspect the chamber and the magazine of the rifle, thereby ensuring that both are clear of any live rounds or empty cases. **Note:** it is not necessary to remove the magazine for inspection. Once inspected, each safety officer will audibly declare each competitor's rifle 'Clear' before proceeding to the next competitor. As the two safety officers meet and their duties overlap, the audible order will change to 'Clear to Remove'. Then and only then, will any competitor be free to remove the rifle from the firing mound.
- 16.9 Firing Positions**
- 16.9.1 Lying Unsupported (Prone) - LU/PU  
The butt of the rifle is to be placed against 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. If a sling is fitted to the rifle and it is not used as an aid to steadying the rifle, it may drape on the ground. The rifle and the back of the forward wrist must be physically clear of the ground. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.
- 16.9.2 Standing Unsupported – SU  
The body must be erect and standing on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. 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. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder and all parts of the rifle must be clear of all other objects. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.
- 16.9.3 Sitting Position – Sit  
The weight of the body is to be supported on the buttocks. No part of the body above the buttocks is to touch the ground or any other object. Legs may be parted or crossed and may be in front of the edge of the firing point. The buttocks are not to be positioned forward of the lane marking pegs or in front of the firing mound. 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 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.
- 16.9.4 Kneeling Unsupported – KU  
No part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object except the forward foot and the back leg from the knee downward. 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.
- 16.9.5 Squatting Position – SQ  
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. 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.

- 16.9.6 Standing Alert Position – SAP  
Although not a firing position, it is a method whereby the competitor will transit to the prescribed firing position as indicated in the match conditions. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.
- 16.9.6.1 The body must be erect and standing on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. 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. The butt of the rifle is to be placed against the shoulder and all parts of the rifle must be clear of all other objects. The muzzle of the rifle must be pointed at the ground at an angle of approximately 800mils (45 degrees) depression. The rifle is to be held with both hands thereby maintaining complete control.

### **16.10 Firing Point Procedure**

- 16.10.1 When the firing detail is called, the competitors are to assume their firing positions to the left of the target lane pegs on their allocated firing lane.
- 16.10.2 No part of the competitors' body or accoutrements is to encroach into any adjoining firing lane.
- 16.10.3 No competitor is to make a hole in the firing point mound which would assist in providing an aid to steadying the rifle.

### **16.11 Conduct of Shooting**

#### **16.11.1 Deliberate Matches**

- a. Sighting shots are non convertible.
- b. An independent competitor will be identified to record each competitors score.
- c. After each shot, the target is to be examined and the result displayed. If the target is not examined or there is no recording of the shot hole by means of a spotting disc, either the competitor or the scorer is to 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 relayed orally to the competitor by the scorer. The onus is on the competitor to ensure that the orally relayed score is heard and understood. The competitor will then have the option of either challenging the value of the shot displayed and, or, the score orally relayed, or continue shooting.
- e. In deliberate matches, the competitor, or team, cannot later dispute the recorded score if they have not registered a challenge to the value of the displayed shot and or relayed score, before the next shot is fired.
- f. On completion of the deliberate match, the scorer is to sign the score card and it is then the competitors 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, he/she/the team forfeit the right for all later challenges.

### **16.12 Timed Matches**

- 16.12.1
- a. Sighting shots are non convertible.
  - b. At the completion of the practice, the Range Officer will ask all competitors if there are any protests. If there are no protests, the Range Officer will direct that the targets be spotted and scores taken.
  - c. The targets will then be displayed with the spotting discs shown. The scores are to be relayed by radio or BIMO board to the competitors who will then sign their score card as acceptance of the score.
  - d. If there are any protests on the conduct of the match, the competitor/s target/s will not be displayed pending resolution of the protest.
  - e. The targets are not to be patched out until the resolution of any challenges, and then only by instruction to the Butts Officer from the Range Officer.

### **16.13 Marking and Scoring**

- 16.13.1
- a. All sighting shots will be individually marked by a spotting disc which is to be placed in the shot hole and displayed for the competitor to observe. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking disc or a marking wand to the scoring area only on target types A, B & D.
  - b. During untimed deliberate matches, all shots are to be marked by a spotting disc. The shot value is to be indicated by a marking disc or a marking wand to the scoring area only on target types A, B & D.
  - c. For timed matches, all shot holes are marked by spotting discs at the completion of the match and displayed to the competitor by means of a 'firers view'. No marking wand is used.
  - d. Spotting disc indications for Type A, B, D, and figures 11, 12, 13 and 14 are white for a V Bull, red for a Bull, white for an Inner, red for a Magpie and white for an Outer. A hit on the non scoring portion of the target is indicated by a spotting disc of the next colour for sighting shots only.  
Spotting disc indications for ICFRA and Palma targetry is white spotter on black and red spotter on white.
  - e. For deliberate matches and for all sighting shots, the targets are engaged with only the spotting disc representing the last shot displayed.
  - f. A spotting disc that has been hit, will not be used again until it is patched out.
  - g. For timed matches, spotting discs will not be placed in the shot holes until the score has been taken.

- h. No shot holes, sighters excepted, will be patched out until the order to patch out is given by the Range Officer to the Butts Officer.
- i. When a shot hole touches the line between two divisions of the target, the competitor will be credited with the higher value. If there is any doubt, the Butts Officer is to adjudicate.
- j. Except for deliberate matches, if less than the maximum number of hits allowed is 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.
- k. 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 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.
- l. Scoring can either be conducted in the Butts by an independent person with the scores relayed to the mound by radio, or by the use of B, I, M, O boards with the scores then taken at the mound.
- m. 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:

<b>Scoring Area</b>	<b>Indication</b>
V Bull	Wand over centre of target. Marking disc on centre bottom.
Bull	Wand/marketing disc over/on lower right hand corner.
Inner	Wand/marketing disc over/on lower left hand corner.
Magpie	Wand/marketing disc over/on top right hand corner.
Outer	Wand/marketing disc over/on top left hand corner.
Miss	Wand waved across target face several times. No marking disc will be displayed if the hit is outside the scoring area of the target.

## **16.14 Challenges**

- 16.14.1 For deliberate practices, the signalled value of a shot may be challenged once only by the competitor or team before another shot is fired at the same target. On receipt of a challenge from the competitor or team, 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, the hit if found, or a miss, is be signalled in the prescribed way.
  - b. If the challenge is for a higher value, the correct value will be signalled whether it has been signalled before or not.
  - c. If the challenge is for incorrect spotting disc colour showing, the target is to be inspected and raised with the correct colour facing. The value is to be re-signalled.
- 16.14.2 For timed matches, the call, 'Are there any challenges', will be made by the Range Officer when the targets are displayed upon completion of the practice (not to be confused with a protest, 16.15 refers). This will be the last opportunity for a challenge and if received the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target after which the following is to occur:
  - 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 incorrect spotting disc colours showing, the target is to be examined and raised with the correct colours facing.
  - c. If the challenge is for spotting discs showing not match the relayed score, the target is to be examined and raised with the correct number of spotting discs showing, if able.
- 16.14.3 A fee, if levied by the convening body, is payable by the individual competitor or team for failed challenges.

## **16.15 Protests**

16.15.1 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 be put in writing by the competitor or team and handed to a representative of the organising body. If necessary, the organising body will convene a Disputes committee to deal with the protest. At the completion of every timed match, the Range Officer is to ask if there are any protests. A protest must be lodged before the targets are exposed for a firers 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 reshoot of the match at the competition Directors/Chief Range Officers discretion.
- 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.

## **16.16 Excess Hits**

16.16.1 Deliberate Match:

- a. If two shots appear on the target in the same exposure, the competitor is to be granted the higher score if the shots appear to be of the same calibre. Spotting discs are to be placed in both holes and the target displayed. The competitor is then to be offered the option of a convertible sighter. If it can be determined that one of the shots is of dissimilar calibre to the previous shot/s, it is to be patched out without instruction from the RO and a spotting disc is to be placed in the similar hole and the target displayed and marked accordingly.
- b. If it can be proven by the RO or BO that the competitor, or team, has fired more than the allowable number of shots, the entire score will be disallowed.

16.16.2 Timed Match:

If the total number of hits on a competitors target exceeds the number of shots fired as per the match conditions and when there is no means of identifying excess shots, eg, two different calibres, all the hits will be signalled in the usual way and the procedure will then be as follows:

- a. When the number of excess hits does not exceed one half, i.e., <50% of the number of allowable shots, the score will be the highest scoring shots up to the number of shots permitted to be fired in the practice.
- b. When the number of excess hits exceeds one half, i.e., >50% of the number of allowable shots, the score will be disallowed and the competitor will re-shoot the match. The target is not to be displayed. A re-shoot will be as per the original match conditions.
- c. 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 are to be dealt with as outlined in sub-paragraphs a and b.
- d. If it can be proven that the competitor or team has fired more than the allowable number of shots, the entire score will be disallowed.

## **16.17 Timing**

- 16.17.1
- a. All timing of exposures is controlled by the Butts Officer.
  - b. A stop-watch is to be used for the timing of exposures.
  - c. The allowable timing in a deliberate match for a competitor to fire a shot is 45 seconds. The time is taken from when the Range Officer orders 'Go On' in the case of the first shot, or from when the competitors target stops moving at the top of the target frame in the butts and the marking wand is removed. No allowance is to be made for any sight adjustment, faulty loading, or adverse/difficult conditions. Any competitor who exceeds this time limit will, after being cautioned and timed by the Range Officer, forfeit the value of any subsequent shot where the time limit is exceeded.
  - d. In a timed match, the exposure/s of the targets, both up and down, are to be carried out as quickly as possible by the butts' detail. The timing of the exposure will start from the moment the slowest target is up and steady.
  - e. There is to be no verbal indication from the Range Officer, or any other person, to the competitors as to how time is passing is allowed. This indication provision does not apply in teams matches where coaching by other members of the team is permitted; i.e., another team member may indicate time to any member/s of his/her team, providing it is done in a way to not disturb or give indication to any other team or competitors.

**16.18 Disturbance**

16.18.1 No person is to make any superfluous noise or gestures which may disturb or affect a competitor. Competitors who wish to make a protest about the conduct of the match, or match conditions, are to make it if at all possible before the match has started and are to indicate their intention to the Range Officer. If the competitor has a protest during the conduct of the match, the competitor is to weigh up his/her options as to a successful protest and to continue firing if at all possible. At the completion of the match and upon the call from the Range Officer, 'Are there any protests', the competitor is to make themselves known and identify the nature of the protest as per 16.15.

**16.19 Tied Scores**

16.19.1 In deliberate matches, tied scores are to be decided upon by counting back from the last shot fired. The competitor with the higher value last shot is the winner. If the scores are still tied, the second last shot is considered, then the third last shot and so on.

16.19.1.1 If the tie is still not resolved, a deliberate practice shoot-off consisting of one non convertible sighting shot followed by five scoring shots is to occur. If the scores still cannot be separated, the competitors are to fire shot for shot until the tie is broken.

16.19.2 In timed matches, the tied scores are to be decided by counting the highest number of 'V' bulls, followed by the highest number of bulls eyes and so on. If the scores still cannot be separated, the tied competitors are to reshoot the entire practice.

16.19.3 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.

16.19.4 Following any re-shoot due to tied scores, the original match scores are to count for the competition, not the re-shoot scores. Re-shoot scores only apply for the purpose of determining the match position.

**16.20 Dangerous Act**

16.20.1 For any dangerous act, eg, unauthorised discharge, the competitor will be immediately stopped from firing any more rounds by the Range Officer and ordered to 'unload' and 'inspect weapon'. The competitor will be disqualified, removed from the mound and the match score will be forfeit. Investigation of the 'dangerous act' will be initiated by the organising body immediately, and the competitor advised of any further action taken. If, in the opinion of the investigating body, the disqualification cannot be substantiated, the competitor will be permitted to re-shoot the match provided the dangerous act was not at the completion of the practice.

16.20.2 No competitor, range staff or observers are to go forward of the firing line to retrieve any item in their care until it is deemed safe to do so by the Range Officer.

**16.21 Disqualification**

16.21.1 Any disqualification must have an independent investigation immediately initiated by the organising body.

16.21.2 Disqualification will be mandatory for any substantiated dangerous act, deliberate cheating, or committing an intentional breach of the rules whereby the offending competitor or team gains an advantage over other competitors or teams. The disqualification can apply to the whole competition, or to the match in which the transgression occurs pending the results and recommendations from the investigating body. Disqualification will be adjudicated upon by the RO in the first instance and/or the organising body.

**16.22 Unauthorised Discharge**

16.22.1 An unauthorised discharge is defined as any round that is fired by a competitor that is not under a fire control order, 'watch and shoot' or 'go on' from the Range Officer or after the 'unload' order has been given. In the event of an unauthorised discharge, the competitor may, at the discretion of the Range Officer be disqualified from the match.

**16.23 Inspection of Rifles**

16.23.1 Prior to the competition starting, all rifles are to be inspected by suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicators from the organising body. 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.

16.23.2 Each competitor is permitted to have only one rifle inspected for the competition and the serial number of the rifle is to be recorded by the organising body. If that inspected rifle fails or becomes unserviceable in the eyes of the RO or a suitably qualified or knowledgeable adjudicator from the organising body, 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 and the serial number is to be recorded as a replacement. This will negate any attempt by the competitor to have and use several different rifles for the competition.



## 16.24 Illegal Modification of Rifle

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

16.25	Course of Fire
16.25.1	The planned course of fire is to be promulgated before the competition and may be modified by the convening body to suit local conditions. When the convening body plans the course of fire, the following instructions are to be adhered to for all timed matches:
	a. Rapid fire matches are to consist of two exposures of 25 seconds during each of which 5 rounds are to be fired. There is to be a 25 second interval between exposures.
	b. Single shot snap matches are to have as a minimum, a 15 second interval between the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> exposure.
	c. Double shot snap matches are to have as a minimum a 15 second interval between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> exposures

## 16.26 Physical Handicap/Impairment

- 16.26.1 If the competitor is suffering from a physical impairment or handicap that precludes firing from the designated position, he/she is to be allowed to fire the match from the shooting position of the next higher degree of difficulty provided that the position is allowed to be used on the range and the physical handicap/impairment does not affect safe handling of the rifle:
- Prone Unsupported becomes Sitting Unsupported.
  - Sitting Unsupported becomes Kneeing Unsupported.
  - Kneeling Unsupported becomes Standing.
- 16.26.2 Any competitor who has lost the effective use of a hand may, after obtaining approval from his/her State or Territory Association, use an artificial rest to support the fore end of the rifle. The artificial rest shall be flat on top and padded so that the contact area does not exceed 50mm in length and under no circumstances is to be attached to the rifle.
- 16.26.3 Any competitor who is unable to comply with the Standard Shooting Rules through physical disability may be permitted to shoot if in the opinion of his/her State or Territory Association they are able to comply with the safety rules and obtain no advantage over any other competitor.

## 16.27 Targets

- 16.27.1 All targets used will be NRAA approved and will be either:
- Type A, B, D, and figures 11, 12, 13 and 14.
  - ICFRA Fullbore targets.
  - Palma Match targets.
- 16.27.2 All Type A, B, D, and figures 11, 12, 13 and 14, targets will have the centre bull printed or inscribed where appropriate.

## 16.28 Grading

- 16.28.1 To ensure that each and every member is apportioned a realistic national grading, **ALL** Clubs are to ensure, as far as is practicable, that each member has shot the common grading match with a Standard Class firearm, as detailed below, no less than two times during the preceding 12 months club activities. **ALL** Clubs shall ensure that any member who has not been graded each year in accordance with these provisions will be reported to their respective State Association as 'A Grade'. This common match will ensure that each member only competes against fellow competitors who are at the same level of ability whilst competing in Club, District, State and National open competitions. This grading is to be shown on the members State Association grading card and in no way effects each Clubs internal grading system for their own domestic competitions.
- 16.28.2 Competitors who have been a member of any NRAA affiliated Club or Association for a period of greater than one year and who do not have an appropriately authorised and issued NRAA State Grading Card, will automatically be awarded a grading of 'A' for Club, District, State and National Open competitions.
- 16.28.2.1 In cases of new competitors who have not completed the required number of grading shoots to be awarded a NRAA grading within the grading period, then the competitors Club Captain or Statistician shall award a grading commensurate to the competitors ability.
- 16.28.3 Competitors from any other association and who do not have a NRAA grading card will automatically be awarded a grading of 'A'.
- 16.28.4 Any competitor graded as either B or C grade who enters and wins an aggregate at any Club, District, State or National Open event with a score that is exceeding the average of his/her grade, then the competitor will be upgraded to the next highest grade. The upgrading will apply from the conclusion of the meeting for a period of twelve months.
- 16.28.5 Once a competitor has been graded to 'A' grade, he/she cannot return to 'C' grade until he/she has spent a period of three consecutive years in 'B' grade.

- 16.28.6 The awarding of an NRAA official Grading to a member will be on a percentage basis of the maximum score of 200/200.  
A GRADE score will be  $\geq 80\% = 160 - 200$ .  
B GRADE score will be  $\geq 60\% < 80\% = 120 - 159$ .  
C GRADE score will be  $< 60\% = 0 - 119$ .

**16.29 Grade Shoot Format:**

- 16.29.1 The following Grade shoot will be shot as indicated except when there is some impediment or limitation for a club to offer the mandated positions. In this case, the matches will be shot from the prone position with a score weighting applied. That score weighting will only apply to the 200 yard matches and will be by the application of a 10 cm circle printed or inscribed inside the current elliptical centres, or by the application of an appropriate decal, to the Fig 11 and Fig 12 targets, thereby modifying the target with an additional scoring ring, in effect, V, 5, 4, 3 and 2.

**Format:**

- Serial 1. 300 yards/meters Deliberate – Type B target, 3 sighting shots (non-convertible) followed by 10 shots to score. The match is to be fired from the Prone Unsupported position.
- Serial 2. 300 yards/meters Rapid – Type B target, 3 sighting shots followed by two exposures of 25 seconds with a 25 second interval. Five shots only are to be fired per exposure. The match is to be fired from the Prone Unsupported position.
- Serial 3. 200 yards/meters Snap – Figure 12 target, 3 sighting shots followed by 10 exposures of 3 seconds with one shot fired per exposure. The match is to be fired from the Sitting Unsupported position.
- Serial 4. 200 yards/meters Rapid – Figure 11 target, 3 sighting shots followed by two exposures of 25 seconds with a 25 second interval. Five shots only are to be fired per exposure. The match is to be fired from the Sitting Unsupported position.
- 16.29.2 If due to restrictions applying to any Club or Range, all four serials cannot be fired on the same day, the Grade shoot may be fired as two (2) matches on separate days. However, Serials 1 and 2 (as a Match) and Serials 3 and 4 (as a separate Match) must each be fired on the same day and may not be further split into individual matches over different days.

For Club, District, State and National Open\_Compétitions, the following format for Range Commands are to be used. All range commands to the competitors are to be prefixed by the warning command, 'Detail'.

### **SIGHTING SHOTS:**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a SIGHTING practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. On the appearance of your target, you are to fire X number of sighting rounds. One sighting round is to be fired at your target per exposure.
5. Each exposure, if hit, will be spotted and indicated accordingly.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail, 'LOAD'.
8. Detail, 'ACTION'.
9. Detail, 'IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY'.
10. Detail, 'IN YOUR OWN TIME GO ON'.
11. The command 'TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. Upon completion of the sighting shots, the command, Detail, 'UNLOAD' is given.

Note: All 'Sighters' are formally a part of the practice/match to which they relate and are only shown separately for the purpose of demonstrating how Range Commands are to be given.

### **DELIBERATE PRACTICE:**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a DELIBERATE practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. On the appearance of your target, you are to fire one round per exposure.
5. Each exposure, if hit, will be spotted and indicated accordingly.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail, 'LOAD'.
8. Detail, 'ACTION'.
9. Detail, 'IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY'.
10. Detail, 'IN YOUR OWN TIME GO ON'.
11. The command 'TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. At practice completion, the command, Detail 'UNLOAD' is given.
13. After the 'UNLOAD' is complete, the command, 'INSPECT FIREARMS' is given.
14. The command, 'BUTTS OFFICER, TAKE THE SCORES AND PATCH OUT THE TARGETS' is given.

Note: Any challenge or protest is to be dealt with upon occurrence.

### **DELIBERATE PRACTICE (FORCED):**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a FORCED DELIBERATE practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. On the appearance of your target, you are to fire X round/s per exposure. Each exposure will be XX seconds with an interval of XX seconds between exposures.
5. Each exposure, if hit, will be spotted accordingly.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail, '*LOAD*'.
8. Detail, '*ACTION*'.
9. Detail, '*IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY*'.
10. Detail, '*WATCH AND SHOOT, WATCH AND SHOOT*'.
11. The command '*TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS*', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. At the completion of the practice, the command, Detail '*UNLOAD, ARE THERE ANY PROTESTS*' is given.
13. The Butts Officer is then informed if there are any protests '*NO PROTESTS BUTTS or PROTEST ON TARGET xx*', and relay the nature of the protest.
14. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*INSPECT FIREARMS*'
15. After any protests are dealt with, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, TAKE THE SCORES AND DISPLAY A FIRERS VIEW*', is given.
16. If there are no challenges, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, PATCH OUT THE TARGETS*' is given.

### **DELIBERATE PRACTICE (TIMED):**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a TIMED DELIBERATE practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. On the appearance of your target, you are to fire XX rounds in the time period.
5. The targets will not be spotted until the completion of the practice.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail, '*LOAD*'.
8. Detail, '*ACTION*'.
9. Detail, '*IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY*'.
10. Detail, '*WATCH AND SHOOT, WATCH AND SHOOT*'.
11. The command '*TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS*', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*UNLOAD, ARE THERE ANY PROTESTS*' is given.
13. The Butts Officer is then informed if there are any protests '*NO PROTESTS BUTTS or PROTEST ON TARGET xx*', and relay the nature of the protest.
14. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*INSPECT FIREARMS*'.
15. After any protests are dealt with, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, TAKE THE SCORES AND DISPLAY A FIRERS VIEW*', is given.
16. If there are no challenges, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, PATCH OUT THE TARGETS*' is given.

### **RAPID PRACTICE:**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a RAPID practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. There will be 2 exposures, each of 25 seconds, with a 25 second interval between exposures.
5. You are to fire 5 rounds at your target on each exposure.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail '*LOAD*'.
8. Detail '*ACTION*'.
9. Detail, '*IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY*'.
10. Detail, '*WATCH AND SHOOT, WATCH AND SHOOT*'.
11. The command '*TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS*', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*UNLOAD, ARE THERE ANY PROTESTS*' is given.
13. The Butts Officer is then informed if there are any protests '*NO PROTESTS BUTTS or PROTEST ON TARGET xx*', and relay the nature of the protest.
14. Detail, '*INSPECT FIREARMS*'.
15. After any protests are dealt with, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, TAKE THE SCORES AND DISPLAY A FIRERS VIEW*', is given.
16. If there are no challenges, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, PATCH OUT THE TARGETS*' is given.

### **SNAP PRACTICE:**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a SNAP practice using a Fig XX or a Type X target.
4. There will be xx exposures, each of x seconds with a x to xx second interval between exposures.
5. You are to fire x round/s at your target on each exposure.
6. Are there any questions.
7. Detail '*LOAD*'.
8. Detail '*ACTION*'.
9. Detail, '*IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY*'.
10. Detail, '*WATCH AND SHOOT, WATCH AND SHOOT*'.
11. The command '*TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS*', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
12. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*UNLOAD, ARE THERE ANY PROTESTS*'.
13. The Butts Officer is then informed if there are any protests '*NO PROTESTS BUTTS or PROTEST ON TARGET xx*', and relay the nature of the protest.
14. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*INSPECT FIREARMS*' is given.
15. After any protests are dealt with, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, TAKE THE SCORES AND DISPLAY A FIRERS VIEW*', is given.
16. If there are no challenges, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, PATCH OUT THE TARGETS*' is given.

**WALK DOWN or FIRE WITH MOVEMENT (ADVANCE TO ENGAGE):**

1. Detail on the mound.
2. Adopt the XXXXXX position.
3. The following practice is a FIRE WITH MOVEMENT practice using Fig XX and/or Type X targets.
4. At xxx yards there will be x exposures, each of xx seconds with a 5 to 15 second interval between exposures (repeat details for each range).
5. You are to fire x round/s at your target on each exposure from the XXXXXX position (repeat details for each range).
6. Upon the completion of each serial you are stand up and ensure that the bolt is in the open position prior to your advancement to the next mound. The muzzle is to be directed towards the butts area and the trigger finger is to be kept outside the trigger guard. **Advancement will be centrally controlled by the Range Officer who MUST ensure that ALL competitors advance in a straight line.**
7. Are there any questions.
8. Detail '*ADOPT THE STANDING ALERT POSITION.*'
9. Detail '*LOAD.*'
10. Detail, '*IS THERE ANYONE NOT READY.*'
11. Detail, '*WATCH MOVE AND SHOOT, WATCH MOVE AND SHOOT.*'
12. The command '*TARGETS, TARGETS, TARGETS*', is then relayed to the Butts Officer.
13. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*UNLOAD, ARE THERE ANY PROTESTS.*'
14. The Butts Officer is then informed if there are any protests '*NO PROTESTS BUTTS or PROTEST ON TARGET xx*', and relay the nature of the protest.
15. At practice completion, the command, Detail '*INSPECT FIREARMS*' is given.
16. If there are no challenges, the command, '*BUTTS OFFICER, PATCH OUT THE TARGETS*' is given.

Note 1: As the competitors advance between mounds, the targets are not to be exposed. They are to be exposed only when called for by the Range Officer.

Note 2. Ideally, the Range Officer should ensure that the command 'Targets, Targets, Targets' is given to the Butts Officer when the competitors are no closer than 10 meters from the mound. There will be a natural time delay as the Butts Officer receives the order and then relays the order to the markers. This will ensure that the targets are exposed as the competitors arrive at the mound of firing.