



LEVER ACTION
OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

Revised 2016

No. 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES	4
SECTION 3: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND AMMUNITION	5
SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING RULES	7
SECTION 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	8
SECTION 6: MODE OF CONDUCTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	10
SECTION 7: COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES.....	11
SECTION 8: RANGE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS	12
SECTION 9: SHOOTING POSITIONS	12
SECTION 10: COURSE OF FIRE	14
SECTION 11: RANGE COMMANDS.....	15
SECTION 12: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES.....	17
SECTION 13: SCORING CROSS-FIRES, EXTRA SHOTS, PENALTIES, ETC.....	18
SECTION 14: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONS	19
SECTION 15: POSTAL COMPETITIONS	20
SECTION 16: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION PROFICIENCY MEDAL AWARDS	21
SECTION 17: GRADING	23
SECTION 18: MALFUNCTIONS	24
SECTION 19: CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS AND TROPHIES.....	25
APPENDIX 1: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS	27
APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS.....	28

These Rules, for the conduct of National Championships, have been compiled by the Discipline Subcommittee, with amendment by the SSAA National Discipline Chairman's Conference and approved and ratified by the SSAA Inc National Board.

LEVER ACTION NATIONAL RULES

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SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To broadly simulate the positions used in the field, under rifle range conditions, with a view to improving a hunter's performance.

SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES

The SSAA Standard Rules cover common rules, including the protest and appeals process that apply to all disciplines.

The current edition of the Standard Rules is available on the SSAA website at www.ssaa.org.au/standard-rules

These Standard Rules should be used with each disciplines current rule book and they take precedence over any standard rule that may be in a discipline's rule book.

The Rules covered are shown as heading and subheadings in this rule book.

2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS

2.3 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2.3.1 Authorisation

2.3.2 Substitute position

2.3.3 Awards, trophies, records, etc.

2.3.4 Protests

2.4 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

2.4.1 Competitors and Officials to be familiar with the Rules

2.4.2 Sportsmanship

2.4.3 Behaviour

2.4.4 Range Safety Rules

2.4.5 Safety Equipment

2.4.6 Clothing

2.5 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE

2.6 RULE INFRINGEMENTS

2.7 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY

2.8 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

2.9 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

SECTION 3: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND AMMUNITION

The classification of Lever Action Rifles has been agreed as following and these rules shall apply to rimfire or centrefire rifles, except in the case of the Classic Calibre Match, which is exclusively for centrefire rifles.

3.1 "Open" Rifles (Rimfire or Centrefire)

3.1.1 Any Lever Action Rifle with a wooden stock.

3.1.2 Any calibre or hand load or wildcat will be accepted. Pointed projectiles will not be permitted in rapid-fire events if safety is impaired. In the case of repeating rifles, in rapid fire events, the rifle must be capable of cycling all rounds from the magazine to the chamber.

3.1.3 Sights with the exception of scopes, magnifying devices, electronic devices and/or rubber eyepieces will be permitted.

3.1.4 The National Rimfire Match is for rimfire rifles only.

3.1.5 The National Centrefire Match is for centrefire rifles only.

3.2 "Classic Calibre" Rifles

In the spirit of the classic calibre competition, the intent of this category is for the use of production factory rifles and reproductions of the same. In addition eligible rifles will comply with:

3.2.1 Any Lever Action Rifle with a two-piece wooden stock.

3.2.2 Those rifles having a detachable box magazine and/or a rotating bolt head are excluded.

3.2.3 Sights shall be of the traditional open type. Peep, screw or micrometer / vernier adjustable sights and hoods are not permitted.

3.2.4 Any mass produced factory centrefire cartridge introduced prior to the end of 1938, which has been or is currently factory chambered in any eligible lever action rifle, are eligible for this class. The authority for determining eligibility shall be: BARNES, "CARTRIDGES OF THE WORLD".

3.2.5 All repairs and replacement parts shall be kept as close as is reasonably practicable to the original design of the rifle.

3.2.6 A pre 1866 original or replica without a two piece wooden stock, chambered in a classic calibre, will be considered in the spirit of the match, and allowed to compete.

3.2.7 Exemption for Post 1939 Cartridges

The following cartridges, chambered in a compliant Classic Calibre Rifle, be allowed in the Classic Calibre Match:

44 Rem Mag

444 Marlin

450 Marlin

32 H&R Magnum

41 Rem Mag

307 Win

356 Win

375 Win

3.3 **Attachments:** Butt hooks, palm rests, hand stops, slings or other such rifle attachments are not permitted.

- 3.4 Rifle:** One rifle only shall be used throughout the shooting of any one competition, except where the Range Officer can verify that, through no fault of their own, a breakage or failure of some part of a rifle, which has not been due to negligence or faulty reloading practices, prevents a competitor from completing their course of fire in their scheduled position. In which case the Range Officer shall note the time remaining for that competitor and they shall be allowed to use another rifle, provided it complies with these Rules in all aspects, and resume shooting as soon as possible or after their detail has completed firing. If the breakage or failure occurs during a burst of rapid fire and after at least one shot has been fired, then the entire number of shots for that target are to be re-shot. Under no circumstances is a competitor to be given extra shooting time over that outlined in these Rules. No sighting shots are to be allowed. It is required that the Range Officer checks the rifle for compliance as soon as time permits but prior to the completion of scoring.
- 3.5 Misfires:** In the event of a misfire with either rimfire or centrefire ammunition due to faulty ignition of the cartridge, while keeping the action closed, the competitor shall notify the Range Officer. After 30 seconds the round shall be ejected and inspected by the Range Officer. If it shows a firing point indentation another round shall be allowed. In any event other than precision, the target shall be re-shot. In events of 5 minutes a proportion of time in respect to remaining rounds will be allowed to complete the event. All other events may be reshot at competitor's discretion. (See also Section 18: Malfunctions).
- 3.6 Ammunition:** A round may not be exchanged for another except as outlined in Rule 3.5 or if a round is accidentally damaged before being loaded into the rifle to the extent that the round, if fired, may be unsafe or cause damage to the rifle. The Range Officer must supervise this exchange.

SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING RULES

- 4.1 Spotting Scopes:** The use of spotting scopes will not be permitted.
- 4.2 Shooting Mats:** The use of shooting mats shall be permitted. The mat must be of a compressible material not more than 50 mm thick and approximately 80 cm x 200 cm in size.
- 4.3 Cushions or Seats:** The use of kneeling cushions or seats of any kind will not be permitted apart from the mat as described in Rule 4.2 with the exception of persons with disabilities (refer 2.3).
- 4.4 Clothing:** Commercial type trap and skeet vests (sleeveless) and shotgun shooting shirts are permitted as well as clothing normally suitable for existing climatic conditions. Shooting coats, unnecessarily heavy clothing, or anything on the person that would provide artificial support, such as clothing having excess padding, or stiffening material or which restricts or supports the body in the

shooting position, may not be worn. Vests that may be considered or construed to be unnecessarily heavy or to provide artificial support are permitted if they can be closed over a gauge made of 101.6 mm (4") thin wall PVC, not less than 762 mm (30") in length, passed through the entire length of the vest. The vest must also be opened or vented from the bottom edge to a point 50.8 mm (2") above the crest of the hipbone. Any dispute regarding clothing will be submitted to the Appeals Committee for final decision.

4.5 Boots: Boots shall be without steel bars, wide soles, or other stiffening devices in the upper, except for steel toe protection. Specially designed shooting boots are specifically excluded.

4.6 Trousers: Shooting trousers are specifically excluded. Normal street wear trousers or jeans may be worn provided they do not have fastening seams (buttons or zippers) necessary to be opened or closed or adjusted in order to get into or out of the trousers except for a fly or belt band. Any trousers or jeans worn must not restrict normal movement of the shooter in using all of the positions for the event being contested.

The intention of Rules 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 is to ensure that competitors are wearing clothing of a type that would be worn for non-competitive shooting, i.e. normal hunting or field wear.

SECTION 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.1 Host clubs shall ensure that competitors at National Championships are afforded reasonable access to the range, targets and facilities for practice purposes on the day prior to those National Championships.

5.2 Each National Lever Action Championship shall consist of the following events:-

5.2.1 National Rimfire Match (for Rimfire Rifles).

5.2.2 National Centrefire Match (for Centrefire Rifles).

5.2.3 National Classic Calibre Match (for Classic Calibre Rifles).

5.2.4 National State Teams Match (which shall consist of four members and it will be the responsibility of each State and/or Territory to select their own teams).

5.3 With the exception of the National State Teams Match, only one National Match is to be conducted on any day.

5.4 The course of fire for the National Championships as nominated by the Host Branch / Club must be included in any advertising relating to the National Lever Action Championships three (3) months in advance of the commencement of the championship.

5.5 The course of fire for the matches listed in Section 5.2 to be as follows:

5.5.1 National Rimfire Match:

5.5.1.1 The total number of rounds shall be fifty rounds.

5.5.1.2 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M. To be shot twice on separate targets.

5.5.1.3 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target) 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7-10 only. To be shot twice on separate targets.

5.5.1.4 25 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds in 10 seconds on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7-10 only. To be shot twice on the same target.

5.5.1.5 Four additional events are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club. See Section 10: Course of Fire, for available events.

5.5.2 National Centrefire Match:

5.5.2.1 The total number of rounds shall be fifty rounds.

5.5.2.2 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M. To be shot twice on separate targets.

5.5.2.3 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target) 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7-10 only. To be shot twice on separate targets.

5.5.2.4 50 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds in 15 seconds on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M. To be shot twice on the same target.

5.5.2.5 Four additional events are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club. See Section 10: Course of Fire, for available events.

5.5.3 National Classic Calibre Match:

5.5.3.1 The total number of rounds shall be thirty five rounds.

5.5.3.2 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Classic Calibre Medal Target) 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the small bear target LA2.

- 5.5.3.3 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Classic Calibre Medal Target)
5 rounds in 5 minutes on the fox head target LA3.
- 5.5.3.4 Five additional events of 5 rounds are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club. See Section 10: Course of Fire, for available events.
- 5.5.4 **National State Teams Match:**
- 5.5.4.1 Each team shall consist of four members. Names of the members and events they are to shoot are to be provided prior to the commencement of the match.
- 5.5.4.2 Each member of the team will shoot 1 event of 5 rounds only.
- 5.5.4.3 The total number of rounds for the National State Teams Match shall be twenty rounds.
- 5.5.4.4 The 4 events are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club. See Section 10: Course of Fire, for available events.
- 5.5.4.5 The winning team for this match will be decided by each of the team's aggregate score from the 4 events shot.

SECTION 6: MODE OF CONDUCTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 6.1 **Rifle and Equipment Check:** Prior to the commencement of the competition each competitor's rifle shall be checked to ensure compliance with Sections 3 and 4 of these Rules. Classic Calibre rifles shall be checked by a person with expertise in this field.
- 6.2 **Position and Detail:** The Host Branch / Club shall draw by ballot prior to the commencement of each event a competitors firing position and detail number. Left-handed shooters may be given the last position/s on the firing line in each detail.
- 6.3 **Sighting Shots:** A minimum 30 minute practice detail will be allowed for competitors before the commencement of each competition. Once the competition has begun, no shots will be allowed to be fired from the rifle used in the competition during breaks, i.e. waiting time between details, changing of targets etc.
- 6.4 **Briefing:** Competitors shall be called together prior to the commencement of the competition and the National Chairman or appointed nominee will brief them on the following:-
- 6.4.1 Timing procedures and the penalties in these Rules for timing infringements.

- 6.4.2 The penalties in these Rules for cross-fires and extra shots on targets.
- 6.4.3 The procedure outlined in these Rules for appeals, the fee to be employed and the names of the members of the Appeals Committee.
- 6.4.4 The procedure for dealing with misfires outlined in these Rules.
- 6.4.5 The procedure for dealing with a stuck live round.
- 6.5 Competitors:** Each detail will be called to the firing line prior to the commencement of their event and the following information given to them (if required) by the Range Officer: name, competitor number, position number, event to be contested, mode of fire, distance to the targets and the time limit. The Range Officer will then check that the number of rounds displayed is correct and that all shooters are ready, and then proceed with the course of fire.
- 6.6 Disruption to Competition:** Once a competition has begun it is to continue without unnecessary delays to its completion. Range Officers are required to exercise their discretion in regards to circumstances that may affect the successful completion of the competition.
- 6.7 Targets:** All targets used for National Championships are to be approved by the Lever Action Sub Committee and ratified by the SSAA National Board, and be printed on target grade paper.
- 6.8 Approved Targets:** The Discipline Chairman shall provide a list (with catalogue numbers) of all targets approved under Rule 6.7.
- 6.9** The Timed Fire event may only be held at venues with mechanical turning Targets which have automated / electronic timing. If not available an alternative event must be selected by the Host Branch / Club instead.

SECTION 7: COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Time Limits:** The onus to complete firing within the time limits as laid down in these Rules is entirely the responsibility of the competitor, however the Host Branch / Club should institute all procedures to assist in this regard.
- 7.2 Coaching:** There is to be no outside assistance of any nature, including spotting, whilst a competitor is on the firing line at championships.

SECTION 8: RANGE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

8.1 Safety: The range must meet all normal State or Territories safety requirements.

8.2 Range / Post Requirements: Host Branch / Club must have a range with facilities consisting of:

100 metre Range

50 metre Range

25 metre Range

The tolerances for these distances to be plus or minus 1% and it is recommended there are post rest facilities for a minimum of ten (10) competitors.

8.3 Posts: For post rest positions, posts are to be provided to the following specifications: A "post" is defined as a length of wood, pipe, or other suitable material, either round, square, or rectangular, which is firmly erected vertically in the ground or shooting station of concrete etc. Minimum dimensions should be as follows:

Round post: 75 mm or 3 inches diameter.

Square post: 75 mm x 75 mm or 3 x 3 inches.

Rectangular post: 50 mm x 75 mm or 2 x 3 inches.

Height of post to be a minimum of 1.8 metres or 6 feet.

8.4 Target Numbers: These shall be positioned on the target frames at all ranges to clearly identify each set of targets belonging to each competitor and be clearly sighted from any shooting position to be used. Minimum distance between the centres of each competitor's target to be one (1) metre.

8.5 Stationary Backers: These are to be provided, and set at 2 metres or as near as practical, behind the target line and at the target height.

8.6 Scoreboards: Scores are to be displayed in plain view of competitors throughout the competition. The scores shall be updated frequently.

8.7 Magazine Loading: As this competition is for Repeating Action Lever Action Rifles, the host club must allow magazine loading for all events in all matches.

SECTION 9: SHOOTING POSITIONS

In describing these positions it is assumed that the shooter is right handed, if left-handed, then the reverse applies.

- 9.1 Prone:** Lying on the ground with the rifle held in both hands, with one hand forward of the pistol grip. No part of the rifle shall make contact with the ground. No part of the body or limbs to touch any other object apart from the ground.
- 9.2 Standing Unsupported:** Standing erect on both feet without support of any kind for either the rifle or the shooter, with no part of the body or limbs to touch the ground or any other object, except the soles of the boots or shoes. The rifle must be held in both hands, with one hand forward of the pistol grip.
- 9.3 Standing Post Rest:** Standing erect on both feet and placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a post erected for this purpose, while holding the fore-end of the rifle with the left hand, or resting the fore-end of the rifle on the left wrist or forearm.
- 9.4 Sitting:** Sitting with no part of the body or limbs to touch any external support or object.
- 9.5 Sitting Post Rest:** The manner of sitting is left to the competitor's own choice, and placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a post erected for this purpose, while holding the fore-end of the rifle with the left hand, or resting the fore-end of the rifle on the left wrist or forearm.
- 9.6 Kneeling:** Kneeling so that the competitor touches the ground only with the underside of the left foot and the lower underside of the right leg, including foot and knee, the buttocks resting on the right foot or heel and the left elbow on the left knee, no other part of the body is to touch any support or object. No kneeling roll is to be used under the right instep.
- 9.7 Any Field Position:** Any position, including post rest positions which could reasonably be expected to be adopted in the field. Benchrest stands, sandbags, or front or rear rifle supports are not permitted.
- 9.8 Firing Line:** In the interests of safety, all competitors must keep their bodies behind the firing line at all times while shooting is in progress and be subject to the Range Officer's commands. Allowance shall be made for fingers around the posts etc, extending slightly beyond the posts but not beyond the firing line immediately in front of the posts.
- 9.9 Rapid Fire Starting Position:** The starting or ready position for rapid fire is defined as standing unsupported with the butt visible below the elbow at hip level and the muzzle pointed down range in a safe direction. The rifle to remain in this position until the command "Fire" is given. For Timed Fire the rifle will be returned to this starting position for the duration of the interval between each exposure of the target.

- 9.10 Rifle Butt Position:** In all positions shot, the rifle butt is to be held in contact with the shoulder, being defined as that area above the bicep muscle to the collar bone.

SECTION 10: COURSE OF FIRE

The purpose of this section is to define the range of events able to be used to make up a course of fire. Section 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS describes the course of fire for each National Lever Action Match including mandatory core events and additional events to be selected by the Host Branch. It is intended that the additional events be varied from year to year to ensure that the course of fire does not stay the same.

- 10.1** The number of shots for each event shall be 5 or 10 per target as described in Section 5. No more than 5 shots are to be fired in the time allowed. For 10 shots, the event will be shot twice.

10.2 Slow Fire Events:

- 10.2.1 The allowed timing for slow fire events can be from over one minute to five minutes. Preferred timings are two minutes or five minutes.

- 10.2.2 Any of the shooting positions defined in Section 9: DEFINITION OF SHOOTING POSITIONS can be used.

- 10.2.3 A distance of 100m, 50m or 25m can be selected.

- 10.2.4 Any approved target may be used. See Appendix 1: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS.

10.3 Rapid Fire Events:

- 10.3.1 A rapid fire event requires that five rounds be fired in one exposure of the target. The rapid fire event exposure time can be from 10 seconds to one minute.

- 10.3.2 The rapid fire event exposure time for the Core Events is defined in Section 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- 10.3.3 The rapid fire event exposure time for the Additional Events must be no less than 10 seconds for Rimfire and 15 seconds for Classic Calibre and Centrefire.

- 10.3.4 The standing unsupported position must be used for any rapid fire event with an exposure time of 15 seconds or less. Times of 30 secs or above are to be used at 100 metres.

- 10.3.5 A distance of 100m, 50m or 25m can be selected.

10.3.6 Any approved target may be used. However it is expected that as the distance increases an appropriately larger target will be selected. See Appendix 1: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS.

10.4 Timed Fire Event:

10.4.1 A timed fire event requires that five rounds are to be fired, one round per 3 Second exposure of the target. Between each exposure of the target, the target will turn away for a period of 7 seconds.

10.4.2 The standing unsupported position must be used.

10.4.3 A distance of 50m or 25m can be selected.

10.4.4 Any approved target may be used. However it is expected that as the distance increases an appropriately larger target will be selected.

10.5 Running Target Event:

Running target can be run as either a timed fire or a rapid fire event. Both use a moving target that is exposed for a distance of 7.5m.

10.5.1 Timed Fire: This is a fast run of 3.5 seconds, and normally a single shot is fired per exposure. Each run is 5 exposures, and it is run twice. If for some reason a shot is not fired, then the competitor can fire two or more shots in any one exposure. The starting position is the normal ready position, and the rifle can be kept at the shoulder between shots in the 5 shot runs, and for the start of the second five shots.

10.5.2 Rapid fire: This is a slow run of 15 seconds, and all 5 shots are fired during this time limit and it is run twice. The starting position is the normal ready position. The rifle can be kept at the shoulder for the start of the second five shots. If for some reason 5 shots are not fired in the first run, then the competitor can fire the extra shots in the second run.

10.5.3 The target distance is 50m.

10.5.4 The targets to be used are WA Running Boar LA14 and Goat LA4.

SECTION 11: RANGE COMMANDS

11.1 Slow Fire Targets starting position and procedure:

11.1.1 **"Load"**: The shooter may load all 5 rounds in the magazine only. No rounds are to be chambered until the order "Fire" has been given. The Range Officer will ask

"Is any shooter not ready?" and if there is no reply within 3 seconds, the command to commence fire will be given.

11.1.2 **"Fire"**: The commencement of the firing (shooting) is to be taken from the word "Fire" if verbal commands are being used and checked with a stop watch or electronic timer for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.

11.1.3 **"Cease Fire"**: After the prescribed time has elapsed, the "Cease Fire" command will be given. The word "Cease Fire" will be given at the expiration of the elapsed time if verbal commands are being used.

11.2 Rapid Fire starting position and procedure using stationary or turning targets.

11.2.1 Load command:

"Load 5 rounds and number off from the left when ready"

The shooter will be given the command **"Load 5 rounds and number off from the left when ready"**. At all times, the muzzle of the rifle must be pointed down range. Each shooter will then load five rounds and with a round in the chamber and hammer cocked, will call their position number in sequence when they are ready to commence. The Range Officer will then either, give the command **"Watch your front"** followed by the turning of the targets, or the command **"Fire."**

11.2.2 **Stationary Targets:**

11.2.2.1 **"Fire"**: The commencement of the firing (shooting) is to be taken from the word **"Fire"** if verbal commands are being used and checked with a stop watch or electronic timer for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.

11.2.2.2 **"Cease Fire"**: After the prescribed time has elapsed, the **"Cease fire"** command will be given. The words **"Cease fire"** will be given at the expiration of the elapsed time when verbal commands are being used.

11.2.3 **Turning Targets:**

11.2.3.1 **"Watch Your Front"**: When this command is given, the target frames will be turned side on to the competitors. After 7 seconds, the target frames will be turned back to face the competitors and this indicates the commencement of the timing of the target being shot. When the time allowed for the target has elapsed, the target frames will be turned side on to the competitors. The turning of the target frames must be carried out by electronic timer.

11.3 General Commands:

11.3.1 **Bell or Horn:** A bell or horn may be used instead of verbal commands.

11.3.2 **"Fire":** The word **"Fire"** being the operative word in each verbal command.

11.3.3 **Leaving Firing Line:** The chambers and magazines of all rifles will be checked by the Range Officer before the competitor can leave the firing line.

11.3.4 **Movement of the firing line:** Movement of the firing line may be permitted between stages. Movement of the firing line is governed by the range safety requirements.

11.3.4.1 Command given for a normal cease fire, and at the completion of an event where turning targets have been used is:

"Cease Fire, Open all actions. Remain on the firing line until your Rifle has been cleared by a Range Officer".

11.3.4.2 Command given to move to next firing position:

"Range clear, Keep your action open and move to the next firing position".

11.3.4.3 In the event an emergency cease fire is required the command is:-

"Cease Fire": Any competitor can use this command for safety reasons.

SECTION 12: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

The following are the optimum requirements to be complied with when hosting National Championships.

12.1 Chief Range Officer: One (1) to conduct the Championships in a safe and proper manner and carry out the procedures as outlined in these Rules.

12.2 Additional Range Officer(s): One or more may be appointed to assist the Chief Range Officer in controlling safety during the match and any other matters as requested by the Chief Range Officer.

12.3 Target detail: A target detail shall comprise a minimum of two (2) persons who preferably are non-competitors and experienced in their duties.

Duties: They are to check the number and dispersion of shots on the targets and notify the Range Officer of any matter requiring investigation. They are to convey shot targets directly to the Head Scorer. They are to check that the position numbers of each competitor's targets are correctly in place prior to each detail.

12.4 Scoring Staff: A recommended minimum of two (2) and these being one Head Scorer and one Check Scorer.

12.4.1 Head Scorer: Must be experienced and is to score all targets shot. If a gauge is available it is to be used to check all close shots and supervise the scoring in accordance with Section 12 of these Rules. The Head Scorer is the only one to insert the gauge, which will be done only once per shot hole and the decision reached between the Head Scorer and the Check Scorer and if necessary the Appeals Committee, shall be final.

12.4.2 Check Scorer: Must be experienced and is to check the result of each gauged shot while the gauge is in position and check other aspects of the scoring (re Section 12) before posting the scores. Scores and shot targets to be posted as soon as possible for inspection by competitors.

SECTION 13: SCORING CROSS-FIRES, EXTRA SHOTS, PENALTIES, ETC.

13.1 Scoring: Only the maximum of shots, as allowed under Section 5 of the Rules, will be scored on any one target. Targets are to be scored in the usual manner: i.e. a hit that touches a scoring ring including the x ring, shall be given the higher value if a gauge or scoring slide of the same calibre as that used to fire on the target, touches some part of the ring when the gauge or scoring slide is used.

13.1.1 Tie breaking: At the conclusion of a match in which two or more competitors have a tied score, the competitor with the highest number of X rings shall be judged the winner. Failing this, then the highest number of tens. In the event that the scores are still tied, final positions will be decided as follows:-

1. National Medal score/s and if the tie still remains
2. Individual targets in the order they were contested.

13.1.2 Where a target has an X ring or bullseye inside the 10 ring a shot touching or Inside that ring or bullseye shall be scored as 10.1 (the .1 designated an X ring or Bullseye score only), i.e. a score of 180.18 would not be added up to 181.8 and a score of 181 would beat it.

13.2 Cross fires: A competitor firing on another competitor's target shall lose all the shots cross fired. The competitor whose target has been cross fired on will be scored as follows:

13.2.1 In the case of there being additional shots of an obviously different calibre, the target will be scored normally. That is, the alien shots will be disregarded.

13.2.2 In the event of there being more than the required number of shots of the same calibre, the lowest scoring shots are to be discounted, unless proved a cross-fire by the stationary backing boards.

- 13.3 Extra Shots:** Where a competitor has fired more than the permitted number of shots for a particular position, the highest valued shots will be struck out from targets on which more than the required number of shots have been fired, until only the number of shots required for that position remain.
- 13.4 Time Penalties:** Any competitor who fires outside (before or after) the shooting times denoted by the commands as outlined in these Rules shall have the highest scoring shot taken from his score in that position for each infringement.
- 13.5 Turning Targets:** When scoring a target shot on turning frames, any shot that produces an elongated hole more than 1½ times the calibre, is not to be counted in the score for that target.
- 13.6 Infringements:** In the event of a combination of the above infringements, they will be dealt with in the following order:-
- 13.6.1 Cross fires refer Rule 13.2.
- 13.6.2 Extra shots refer Rule 13.3.
- 13.6.3 Time penalties refer Rule 13.4.
- 13.7 Inspection of Targets:** Upon completion of a single target competitors in that detail shall be permitted to review their respective target prior to shooting their next target. All competition targets are to be available for inspection after scoring and are not to be removed from the inspection area unless, they are required by the Appeals Committee or the final results have been posted and no protests are outstanding.
- 13.8** All targets shall be given a numerical scoring value commencing at 10 and an x-ring included as part of the target. Any target area without a numerical value to be scored with the next descending value.
- 13.9** Where a target has a defined feature, it shall be given the same value as the scoring area it occupies.

SECTION 14: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONS

- 14.1** The National Lever Action Champions will be known as follows:
- 14.1.1 National Lever Action Rimfire Champion.
- 14.1.2 National Lever Action Centrefire Champion.
- 14.1.3 National Lever Action Classic Calibre Champion.

- 14.1.4 National Lever Action State Team Champions.
- 14.1.5 National Lever Action Two Gun Champion. (Rimfire and Centrefire combined)
- 14.1.6 National Lever Action Three Gun Champion. (Rimfire, Centrefire and Classic Calibre combined)
- 14.2** The winner(s) of each section of the National Lever Action Championships will be determined by the addition of scores of all advertised events shot on the day(s) of the championships.
- 14.3 State Teams:** It is agreed that each team shall consist of four members and it will be the responsibility of each State and/or Territory to select their own team members. Each team member shall shoot one of the specified Team Event targets according to the position and timing specifications as advertised by the Host Branch / Club. The team score is the sum of the four team members' individual aggregates.

SECTION 15: POSTAL COMPETITIONS

- 15.1** Postal competitions will be held on an annual basis and they are as follows:
 - 15.1.1 **National Lever Action Classic Calibre Postal Shoot.** Ideally to be shot during the month of March.
 - 15.1.2 **International Open Lever Action Postal Shoot.** Ideally to be shot during the month of June.
 - 15.1.3 **National Lever Action Open Postal Shoot.** Ideally to be shot during the month of August.
- 15.2** Each postal shoot will be made up of teams and/or individual competitors as determined by the Discipline Chairman.
- 15.3** Results are to be forwarded to the National Lever Action Chairman no later than the 15th day of the following month that each postal shoot is scheduled to be held, unless otherwise approved by the Discipline Chairman.
- 15.4 Course of fire is as follows:**
 - 15.4.1 Classic Calibre Postal Shoot:**
 - 15.4.1.1 The course of fire is to be advised at the National Lever Action Sub-committee Meeting held in the previous year.

15.4.1.2 The Host Branch / Club for the National Lever Action Championships in the following year will be responsible for setting the course of fire.

15.4.1.3 In the event that the course of fire is not advised within one (1) month of the required time, the National Lever Action Chairman shall set the course of fire. The Host Branch / Club will be advised accordingly.

15.4.1.4 The course of fire set for the postal shoot will also be used for the National Lever Action Classic Calibre Championship for the same year.

15.4.2 International Open Postal Shoot:

Course of fire and targets to be determined by the Discipline Chairman.

15.4.3 Open Postal Shoot:

The course of fire is as follows:

15.4.3.1 Event 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M (National Medal Target).

15.4.3.2 Event 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7 - 10 only, (National Medal Target).

15.4.3.3 Event 3 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported, 5 rounds in 15 seconds on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M.

15.4.3.4 Event 4 at 25 metres - Standing Unsupported, 5 rounds in 10 seconds on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7-10 only.

SECTION 16: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION PROFICIENCY MEDAL AWARDS

16.1 A Lever Action proficiency medal award can only be won whilst shooting in an SSAA lever action competition, and may only be obtained by a financial SSAA member.

16.2 There will be five proficiency medal awards:-

16.2.1 Bronze Proficiency Medal Award

16.2.2 Silver Proficiency Medal Award

16.2.3 Gold Proficiency Medal Award

16.2.4 Diamond Proficiency Medal Award

16.2.5 Junior Proficiency Medal Award

16.3 A shooter may only qualify for a silver proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a bronze proficiency medal award; a gold proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a silver proficiency medal award; and a diamond proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a gold proficiency medal award. A shooter may only qualify for each proficiency medal award once.

16.4 National Lever Action proficiency medal awards are available for open or classic calibre events.

16.4.1 Open proficiency medal award targets

The proficiency medals will be awarded for an aggregate score for the 2 (two) targets as follows:

16.4.1.1 Target 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M.

16.4.1.2 Target 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the 50 metre slow fire pistol target 13M or 14N, scoring 7-10 only.

16.4.2 Classic calibre proficiency medal award targets

The proficiency medals will be awarded for an aggregate score for the two targets as follows:

16.4.2.1 Target 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the small bear target LA2.

16.4.2.2 Target 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported, 5 rounds in 5 minutes on the fox head target LA3.

16.5 For both open and classic calibre:

An aggregate score of 75 plus will qualify for a Bronze proficiency medal award.

An aggregate score of 85 plus will qualify for a Silver proficiency medal award.

An aggregate score of 95 plus will qualify for a Gold proficiency medal award.

And a possible of 100 will qualify for a Diamond proficiency medal award.

16.6 Lever Action award claims are to be verified and signed by the Range Officer or Lever Action delegate, and submitted to the Lever Action Awards Secretary.

- 16.7** A National Junior Proficiency medal award is available for issue by the National Lever Awards Secretary upon a Junior shooting an aggregate score of 65 plus on the same targets as the lever action open proficiency medal award. A claim form must be completed and forwarded to the Lever Action Awards Secretary. This junior proficiency medal can be awarded only once and is not a pre-requisite for awarding lever action open proficiency medal awards to Juniors.

SECTION 17: GRADING

- 17.1 Establishing Grades:** An ungraded competitor is deemed to be in the highest grade for the match contested on the day in which there are three (3) competitors until they have completed that match upon which a grade will be given based on that score. For a competitor to go up a grade they must equal or exceed the qualifying score on three (3) occasions (in the next shoot they are in the higher grade) and there is no time restraint on this.
- 17.2 Downgrading:** For a competitor to go down a grade they must do so by applying to the National Chairman in writing with due reason and supported by documentary evidence (i.e. score sheets, medical statements etc.) that will help the Chairman to reach a decision.
- 17.3 Lack of Grading Evidence:** If a current grading card or evidence of previous scores cannot be produced at nomination prior to the registered championship, the competitor will be placed in the highest grade for which there are three (3) shooters competing.
- 17.4 Nomination to a Higher Grade:** A competitor can elect to shoot in a higher grade at the time of nomination prior to a registered championship, provided that there are three (3) shooters already competing in the higher grade.
- 17.5 Grading Cards:** All details shall be entered on a grading card and signed by the Range Officer or delegate. No alterations will be allowed. Grading cards are available through the National Office.
- 17.6** Targets for grading are as follows:-
- 17.6.1** Open 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target).
- 17.6.2** Classic Calibre 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Classic Medal Target) 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Classic Medal Target).

17.7 Grades are as follows:

17.7.1 Open

AAA Grade	96 - 100
AA Grade	86 - 95
A Grade	76 - 85
B Grade	66 - 75
C Grade	0 – 65

17.7.2 Classic Calibre

AAA Grade	91 - 100
AA Grade	81 - 90
A Grade	66 - 80
B Grade	51 - 65
C Grade	0 – 50

SECTION 18: MALFUNCTIONS

See also Rule 3.5 Misfires

18.1 Malfunction: Something that impedes the firing of the rifle each time it is cycled, i.e. The same malfunction must happen each and every time the rifle is cycled (e.g. a broken firing pin or spring etc.), this rules out operator error.

18.1.1 At Fault: The competitor must be considered at fault if:

18.1.1.1 The safety catch has not been released.

18.1.1.2 The rifle was not loaded or was loaded with the wrong type of ammunition.

18.1.1.3 The breech was not closed all the way.

18.1.1.4 For centrefire only, the rifle is found in the discharged condition, the chamber is found to contain a cartridge of the type the competitor ordinarily uses, showing a clear impression of the firing pin, but the projectile has not left the barrel.

18.1.1.5 A jam occurs due to incorrect cycling of the action.

18.1.2 Not at Fault: The competitor must not be considered at fault if:

18.1.2.1 For rimfire only, the rifle is found in the discharged condition, the chamber is found to contain a cartridge of the type the competitor ordinarily uses, showing a clear impression of the firing pin, but the projectile has not left the barrel.

- 18.1.2.2 The reason for not firing was caused by a malfunction of the rifle, which is not likely to have been caused by the competitor, or could not have been prevented by the competitor.
- 18.1.3 **Sights:** If the rifle sights come loose during an event because they were not properly tightened, all shots must be scored. Loose rifle sights are not grounds for a re-shoot.
- 18.2 Deeming rifles and/or ammunition unserviceable:** The Range Officer may deem any suspect rifle or ammunition unserviceable or unsafe. Once so deemed, the rifle and/or ammunition shall be removed from the firing line and not re-admitted until cleared by the Range Officer. The Range Officer will be guided strictly by the principle that if there is any doubt, the rifle and/or ammunition is to be disqualified from further range use until the problem has been positively rectified.
- 18.3 Misfires:** In the event of a misfire, a competitor must not open the action of the rifle for at least 30 seconds, during which time the rifle must continue to be pointed down range. It is the competitor's responsibility to inform the Range Officer immediately of any such occurrence. Barrel must be inspected for obstructions.
- 18.4 Broken Rifle:** A competitor, whose rifle breaks or ceases to function, may change to another rifle between stages of an event. The course of fire can then be completed with the substitute rifle. The Head Scorer is to be notified.
- 18.5 Permitted Re-shoot:** The Appeals Committee only, may deem that a competitor has not received a fair opportunity due to some act of providence or unforeseen circumstance and permit the competitor another attempt.

SECTION 19: CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS AND TROPHIES

- 19.1 Championship Medals:** The National Chairman will be responsible for organising the National Championship medals for the first three placings in both Open and Junior categories as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Rules.
- 19.2 Perpetual Trophies:** The National Chairman will be responsible for organising all perpetual trophies to be available for presentation at each National Championship.
- 19.3 Hall of Fame:** A Lever Action Hall of Fame Award shall be conducted on a point score basis in the three classes of Lever Action: 2 Gun Lever Action Aggregate and the 3 Gun Lever Action Aggregate at the Australian Lever Action Championships.

19.3.1 For points to apply the minimum entry number per class will be 15 and a minimum of 10 in the Two and Three Gun Aggregates. There must also be a minimum of 3 States competing in all the above.

19.3.2 Points will be allocated as follows but only after the above mentioned provisions and parameters are met:-

A class aggregate win 1 point.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the 2 Gun Aggregate 3, 2, and 1 point respectively.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the 3 Gun Aggregate 3, 2, and 1 point respectively.

19.3.3 The maximum number of points able to be awarded at any one Australian Championship is 15 (9 to any one competitor).

19.3.4 A competitor must amass a total of 15 points for entry into the "Lever Action Hall of Fame".

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS

- LA1 Buff Head Target
- LA2 Bear Target (Small)
- LA3 Fox Head Target
- LA4 Goat Target
- LA5 Sitting Rabbit (Small)
- LA6 Qld Pig
- LA7 Feral Cat
- LA8 Crow (small)
- LA9 Elephant
- LA10 Running Rabbit
- LA11 Running Fox
- LA12 Sitting Rabbit Large
- LA13 Duck
- LA14 WA Running Boar
- 13M Official 50M slowfire Pistol
- 14N Centre only of 13M
- LA15 SA Cats Head
- LA16 SA Turkey
- LA17 WA Cat
- LA18 WA Running Fox

APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS

Additional Events: The extra targets selected by the Host Branch to complete the course of fire. The target, distance to be shot, shooting position, timing and number of shots selected for these additional events must comply with Section 10: COURSE OF FIRE.

Core Events: The events that are fixed in the course of fire for each match by Section 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Course of Fire: The description of the individual targets that make up a match.

Detail: The group of competitors that shoot each event at the same time. The number of competitors in each detail is limited by number of shooting positions available on the range.

Distance: The distance for each event must be selected from 100m, 50m or 25m.

Event: The target, distance to be shot, shooting position, timing and number of shots.

Match: A National Lever Action Match as described in Section 5.4.

Timing: The timing for each event can be slow fire, rapid fire or timed fire.