



SSAA WA

PRACTICAL HUNTING RIFLE

OFFICIAL RULES

**No. 2
Revised 2016**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES3
SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES4
SECTION 3: EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS8
SECTION 4: RANGE SETUP, STAFFING, TARGETS, COURSE OF FIRE11
SECTION 5: SHOOTING POSITIONS14
SECTION 6: GRADES, AWARDS AND RECORDS15
SECTION 7: SCORING, PENALTIES, CROSS FIRE, EXTRA SHOTS, ETC.17
SECTION 8: RANGE COMMANDS18
APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS.....20
APPENDIX B: PROTEST RESOLUTION FORM.....21
APPENDIX C: TARGET SCORING ZONES.....22

These rules are compiled by the Practical Hunting Rifle Subcommittee and are subject to approval and review by SSAA WA Inc. as required as interim rules for the conduct of a Practical Hunting Rifle competition. The rules will be reviewed within 3 years – March 2019.

SSAA WA PRACTICAL HUNTING RIFLE

OFFICIAL RULES

REVISED 2016

No. 2

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Practical Hunting Rifle competition is to simulate hunting conditions in a controlled environment with a view to improving a hunter's performance.

This sport is designed exclusively as a test for hunters with hunting rifles, either Rimfire or Centrefire. The object is to simulate field hunting conditions in order to test the ability of the hunter and not only the accuracy of the rifle. Therefore it is a shooting contest of variable and non-standard format that examines practical marksmanship as it occurs in the hunting field.

The following elements of a competitor's ability may be tested:

- Judging distances
- Judging influence of the wind on the trajectory
- Understanding and use of ballistic performance
- Ability to correctly identify the vital zones for aiming on the target
- Ability to shoot from various positions
- Ability to shoot with time constraints

The range setup shall be structured with a view to enable testing of the above elements during a competition.

SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES

2.1. COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

A competitor who competes in a Championship must be a financial member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia or an Association affiliated with the SSAA Inc or under special invitation from the SSAA.

A current SSAA membership card or official documentation from the SSAA National Membership Office or a SSAA State or Territory Association showing current membership details shall be accepted as proof of their financial membership, providing they are not under suspension from membership.

Members of Affiliated Associations must provide adequate documentation of their current membership of the Affiliate Association.

A person who is unfinancial or is unable to provide proof of their financial status may pay their full membership fee for the applicable SSAA State or Territory Association, to the Host Branch / Club, providing they are not under a suspension from membership. The membership fee must be paid prior to them commencing competition.

2.2. JUNIOR COMPETITORS

A SSAA junior member is any member under the age of 18 years at the commencement of the Championships.

A junior competitor in a SSAA Championship shall pay no more than one half of the standard adult entry fee.

If the Discipline's Championship includes Graded and / or Junior categories, a junior competitor is eligible to compete for Junior, Grade and Open medals and awards. The winning of a Junior medal or award does not preclude a junior competitor from winning any other category of medal or award.

Junior competitors are divided into two classes

- Under 15 years
- Under 18 years and 15 years and over

2.3. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A competitor who, because of a physical disability, cannot fire from the prescribed shooting position outlined in these Rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, is entitled to petition the Discipline Chairman for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both. The special position must simulate, as much as possible, the original firing position/s required by the Rules, for example boards or tables placed in front of a wheelchair may be used for the prone or kneeling positions.

This petition will be in the form of a written request from the competitor to the Discipline Chairman outlining in detail the reasons why the special position must

be assumed or the special equipment must be used. The petition, in duplicate, shall be accompanied by pictures of the competitor in the position they desire approved, and if special equipment is required, the pictures will show how this equipment is used. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted.

- 2.3.1. **Authorisation:** Each petition will be reviewed by the Discipline Chairman on its merits and may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. If approved, the Chairman will issue a special authorisation certificate to the individual concerned. Such authorisation will have necessary pictures attached that will be signed and dated by the Discipline Chairman. Competitors who have received special authorisation certificates are required to present them when requested by Competition Officials or the Range Officer.

Two types of authorisations are issued, temporary and permanent. Permanent authorisations are issued to competitors who have permanent physical disabilities.

- 2.3.2. **Substitute position:** In competitions where different shooting positions are required, a competitor with a temporary or permanent physical disability or impairment, that prevents them from using the specified firing position as defined in the Rules, may notify the Discipline Chairman or the Competition Officials of their intention to use the next more difficult position in lieu of a position, e.g. Sitting may be used for Prone, Kneeling may be used for Sitting, and Standing may be used for Kneeling.

This substitution must comply with the rules for that position to be used and be approved by the Discipline Chairman or Competition Official/s before the start of the shooting for that position.

- 2.3.3. **Awards, trophies, records, etc.:** Competitors using special authorisation certificates shall be eligible for all awards, trophies, etc. made under the competition Rules. But Australian or National records may not be established by use of scores shot in special positions or with special equipment under a special authorisation certificate.

- 2.3.4. **Protests:** In the event of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by a competitor under Section 2.3, the Appeals Committee will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the competitor. If the competitor's position or equipment does not, in the opinion of the Appeals Committee, conform to that authorised by the Discipline Chairman (or if the competitor has no authorisation certificate or pictures), the protest shall be allowed and the competitor will be required to change immediately to the position or equipment which has been approved or to an otherwise legal position or equipment.

2.4. COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

2.4.1. Competitors and Officials to be familiar with the Rules

Competitors and officials should be familiar with the Rules pertaining to Championships.

2.4.2. Sportsmanship

Competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA.

2.4.3. Behaviour

Competitors should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing range during the conduct of an event. A competitor failing to observe this fact will be disciplined by the Range Officer. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor the Range Officer shall caution the offender once, and, if there is any repetition of the conduct, the competitor may be asked to immediately leave the firing line and may also be disqualified.

Any disqualification made under this Rule may be appealable under the procedure set down in Section 2.8 of these Rules.

2.4.4. Range Safety Rules

All competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA ranges as well as any Rules specific to the range on which a particular championship is being conducted. Unsafe practices by a competitor on a SSAA range can be grounds for disqualification.

2.4.5. Safety Equipment

It is strongly recommended that ear and eye protection be worn at all times by persons who are in the vicinity of the firing line whilst shooting is underway.

It is recommended that suitable clothing, including enclosed shoes or boots, be worn at all times by a competitor whilst engaged in the competition and in the vicinity of the firing line.

A competitor may wear medical equipment which may be seen as giving support if a medical certificate confirming the competitor's need to wear such a device for health reasons is submitted to the Discipline Chairman and / or Discipline Subcommittee for approval prior to the commencement of the competition.

2.5. STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE

In the event of a malfunction which results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm.

2.6. RULE INFRINGEMENTS

A competitor found to be infringing these Rules will be given a warning by the Range Officer. If the infringement continues the competitor may be suspended or disqualified from the competition being contested and their scores will not be recorded.

Safety infringements or breaches may result in immediate suspension or disqualification.

2.7. DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY

The Discipline's Chairman shall have the power to direct the Host Branch / Club in the manner in which the Championships are to be conducted, and shall have the right to interpret the Rules and requirements to ensure the Championships are conducted in an acceptable and uniform manner.

2.8. PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Rules for the Protest and Appeals Committee are common to all SSAA Disciplines and form part of each Discipline's Rule Book. The Rules are as follows:

- 2.8.1. At all registered Championships there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to hear and decide protests and appeals.
- 2.8.2. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people, including the Discipline Chairman, any one of whom may be a competitor. The Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee will chair the Appeals Committee. But in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (not withstanding any Rule or Rules of law to the contrary).

In competitions where more than one club is represented a delegate from any of the clubs represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee.
- 2.8.3. A protest may be lodged by any competitor who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Range Officer, the target scorers, or any other organisational matters or methods of conducting the competition. A competitor may protest the conduct of another competitor(s) or that another competitor(s) has not fulfilled their obligations according to these Rules, or has not properly obeyed the Rules.
- 2.8.4. The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a fee set by the Discipline Chairman. If the protest or appeal is upheld, the applicant is to be refunded the amount of the fee. If the protest is disallowed, then the fee shall be forfeited to the organisers conducting the competition.
- 2.8.5. The protest is to be lodged with the Range Officer or other persons nominated by the Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to receive appeals. A

protest may be lodged during the conduct of a competition or after the competition has been completed but not later than 30 minutes after the scores for that competition have been announced or posted. When received, the protest or appeal must be given to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee as soon as possible.

2.8.6. The Chairman shall convene the Appeals Committee without undue delay and the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to hear evidence from the protester, the appellant and person(s) involved in the protest; to require the Range Officer, Scorers or organisers to produce targets, score sheets or other material relevant to the protest; to call evidence from any other person(s) who may be able to help the Appeals Committee and to do all such other things that the Appeals Committee believes will enable it to reach an unbiased and just decision.

2.8.7. Any accused person shall:

- Have a right to be heard before the Appeals Committee and to remain in attendance during each session of the Appeals Committee.
- Be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.
- Be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
- Be informed of the evidence or allegations made.
- Be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
- Be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.

2.8.8. Immediately after the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Appeals Committee Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision or post the decision on a notice board. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

Note: Desirably the Appeals Committee proceedings and deliberations should be conducted out of the public gaze and free from distractions of the ongoing competition.

SECTION 3: EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

For the purpose of these competitions, the rules shall apply equally to both Centrefire and Rimfire field, hunting or sporting rifles (hereafter referred to in these Rules as "Hunting Rifles").

3.1. Centrefire hunting rifles may be of any calibre and chambered for any centrefire factory or wildcat cartridge that is allowed on the SSAA range. The types of repeating action rifles that can be used are limited to bolt or lever actions. Single shot rifles with any type of action are allowed. Pump action or self-loading rifles are not allowed. There is no weight limitation.

- 3.2.** Rifles chambered for **.222 / .223 Remington** may compete in a separate category to other centrefire rifles. This competition may be conducted concurrently to the 'open' centrefire competition or a separate match may be arranged. The rifle must meet the following requirements to participate in this category:
- Must be chambered for standard .222 Rem / .223 Rem rounds
 - Rifle including scope, sling and magazine must weigh less than 5 kg
 - The barrel may not extend more than 26" (660.4mm) from the front end of the action
 - No suppressor or muzzle break may be fitted
 - The telescope shall be limited to 14X magnification
 - No dialling is allowed during the competition and scope turrets will be sealed
- 3.3.** Rifles chambered for a calibre of .330 or larger may compete in a **'big game' category**. This competition may be conducted concurrently to the 'open' centrefire competition or a separate match may be arranged. The rifle must meet the following requirements to participate in this category:
- Must be chambered for a calibre of .330 or larger
 - Must have a minimum bullet weight of 165 grains
 - Must have a minimum muzzle energy of 2900 ft-lb
 - The telescope shall be limited to 9X magnification
 - A muzzle break may be fitted
 - There is no weight limitation
- 3.4. Rimfire hunting rifles** shall have the same specifications as standard centrefire rifles. Two classes of rimfire hunting rifles may be used. Matches for the different classes may be conducted concurrently or a separate match may be arranged.
- '.22LR' category shall be chambered for the .22LR rimfire cartridge
 - 'Open' category can be chambered for any rimfire cartridge
- 3.5. Triggers:** The triggering mechanism of any rifle will be functionary and will be subjected to a safety check by the Range Officer, if necessary. In the event of it being unserviceable, the competitor will not be allowed to continue with that rifle. Refer to Section 3.9 for the requirements of a replacement rifle.
- 3.6. Sights:** Any type of sight may be used throughout the course of a competition. The making of sight adjustments during a competition will be permitted, unless the requirements for a specific lane specifies otherwise. Telescopic sights with integral electronic range finding capabilities shall not be allowed. Any standard reticle (including Mildot variants) is allowed. There is no limitation on the magnification power of telescopes.
- 3.7. Accessories:** In both centrefire and rimfire classes butt prongs and palm rests shall not be permitted.

- 3.8. Slings:** Slings typically encountered on hunting rifles are allowed to be used. If a sling is used, it must be fastened to the stock at two points, the front attachment must be forward of the action / barrel joint and the rear attachment must be behind the action tang. A sling may be adjusted but not added to or removed from a rifle once a match has commenced.

The following requirements shall be adhered to:

- Slings of any width are allowed
- Simple carry slings are allowed
- Slings with loops (Whelan, 1907 or similar) are allowed
- Slings equipped with Velcro, hooks or similar fittings with the intent to hook onto a jacket or other clothing items are not allowed
- Specialist slings (e.g. slings that wrap around the body, 3 point slings etc.) are not allowed.
- The final decision regarding eligibility of a sling rests with the Discipline Chairman

- 3.9. Weights:** No weights, attachments or devices shall be added to, adjusted or removed from the rifle or sling for the purpose of changing the weight or balance of the rifle (e.g. "heavy" slings, muzzle weights etc.).

- 3.10. One rifle** shall be used to complete a competition. The exception is where a breakage or failure of some part of a rifle prevents a competitor from completing the course of fire. If this is the 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 timed event, the opportunity will be lost to complete that lane.

Under no circumstances shall a competitor be given extra shooting time over that outlined in these rules.

- 3.11. Range finding equipment:** No electronic or mechanical distance ranging or wind velocity measuring equipment shall be used on the competition premises or the sight in range.

- 3.12. Shooting mats:** The use of shooting mats shall not be permitted. Where shooting is to commence over rough terrain that may damage the competitor's equipment, a thin, blanket type covering for protection may be supplied by the organizers. This supplied coverage must stay on the shooting point for the duration of the competition and is the only coverage that is allowed. Where no coverage is supplied, the competitor may remove their hat or cap and use it as protection. No other material will be allowed.

- 3.13. Shooting gloves or mitts** are not permitted. Gloves may be worn to protect the competitor against the climate or the physical environment only. Gloves may not strengthen the wrists or provide artificial support in any way.

- 3.14. Jackets and Coats:** Hunting or shooting jackets that are usually worn while hunting will be allowed, including jackets with elbow protectors and recoil pads. Clothing or jackets that are unnecessarily heavy or jackets with artificial support

that restrict movement to provide a more stable shooting position shall not be allowed. Jackets are intended to protect against the current climatic conditions and the physical environment at the firing point, not to provide additional support or stability whilst shooting.

- 3.15. **Elbow protectors**, typically made from leather and fitted around the elbow with straps, are allowed. No elbow protectors that provide more artificial support than these shall be allowed.
- 3.16. **Knee protectors**, similar to those available as industrial safety equipment, may be worn to protect the shooter against the environment.
- 3.17. **Boots / shoes** shall be without steel bars, wide soles, or other stiffening devices in the upper part of the shoe, except for steel toe protection.
- 3.18. **Bipods** or any other attachments for steadying the rifle shall not be allowed.
- 3.19. **Muzzle brakes** are allowed.

SECTION 4: RANGE SETUP, STAFFING, TARGETS, COURSE OF FIRE

4.1. RANGE REQUIREMENTS / SETUP

The range setup is of a variable and non-standard format.

Rimfire Hunting Rifle matches will typically be completed as a separate competition to Centrefire Hunting Rifle competitions. Categories within centrefire or rimfire matches may be shot concurrently.

The required **minimum and maximum shooting distance** shall be as per the table below.

Category	Approximate Minimum distance for any lane with gongs (m)	Approximate Minimum distance for at least one lane without gongs (m)	Approximate Maximum distance (m)
Centrefire - open	150	250	400
Centrefire - 222/223	150	250	400
Centrefire - big game	150	200	300
Rimfire - open	100	150	250
Rimfire - .22LR	75	100	150

4.2. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

The following officials are the minimum required to be complied with to hold a registered tournament. Their duties are as follows:

- 4.2.1. **Range Officer:** To conduct the tournament in a safe and proper manner and carry out the procedures as outlined in these Rules. The Range Officer will also

ensure that competitors on the firing line conform to the rules as outlined in this rule book. The Range Officer is responsible for ensuring the safety of all competitors and visitors.

- 4.2.2. **Safety Officers:** To assist the Range Officer in controlling safety during the match and any other matters as requested by the Range Officer. Note: For 6 shooters and below, minimum of 1 Range Officer, for 7 to 15 shooters, minimum of 1 Range Officer and 1 Safety Officer, and for 15 plus shooters minimum of 1 Range Officer and 2 Safety Officers.
- 4.2.3. **Delegate of the subcommittee** or an appointed proxy will be present at all registered tournaments to ensure that official sanction for registration is only granted to those ranges which conduct tournaments in accordance with these Rules. The Delegate is to forward a copy of the score sheet/s to the Discipline Chairman.
- 4.2.4. **Registration:** Any Club or Branch wishing to host a registered tournament shall notify the Discipline Chairman who will inspect the range (if necessary) and issue the approval no later than 7 days before the match.

4.3. TARGETS

The targets used will be steel plates and colour or black and white photographic prints of animals typically hunted. These targets can be a full scale print of an animal or just a part of the animal, which simulate partly obscured animals.

- 4.3.1. **Range finding equipment** may not be used to set up these targets; distances will be judged by the organizers and are approximate.
- 4.3.2. **Examples** of the paper targets used must be displayed at the shooting points, clearly identifying score zones. These targets should preferably be full scaled.
- 4.3.3. **Steel plates** of varying shapes and sizes, up to a maximum diameter of 200mm may also be used in combination on a centrefire range. For rimfire matches, steel plates of varying shapes and sizes, up to a maximum diameter of 100mm may be used.

Placement: Steel plates must be clearly visible to the naked eye, clearly marked and numbered for easy identification. Numbering of the steel plates must consist of contrasting light and dark colours and be at least A4 sized, for example a black number on a white A4 paper, attached to the frame supporting the steel plate or located next to it.

4.4. COURSE OF FIRE

A typical competition consists of 30 shots over 6 lanes, i.e. 5 shots per lane. The number of lanes and shots per lane may be altered as required. Practice matches of less than 30 shots may be organised at a club and State/Territory level.

- 4.4.1. Competitors shall complete the **course of fire** in the order prescribed by the Range Officer.
- 4.4.2. **Sighting and fouling shots:** A sighting opportunity will be allowed for each competitor before the commencement of competition. This shall only take place on a sighting lane when available. A 100m (where possible 200m) sight in lane, manned by a Range Officer, must be available before the start of a centrefire competition. For rimfire matches, a 100m range must be available. No 'fouling shots' are allowed on any other range during the competition.
- 4.5. **Changing of shooting position:** The Range Officer will explain the positions to be used on each lane. General guidelines for positions are available in Section 5. During a course of fire, competitors may be required to change positions. While changing positions, the rifle's bolt shall remain open until the competitor is stable and ready to fire from the new position.
- 4.6. **Rifle and equipment check:** Prior to the commencement of the competition, each competitor may have their rifle and equipment checked by the Range Officer or others nominated to ensure compliance with Section 3 of these Rules. Rifles and equipment passing the check are still subject to protest and appeal for any possible infringement of the rules as per Section 2.8.
- 4.7. **Briefing:** Competitors shall be briefed prior to the commencement of the competition by the Range Officer or other nominated person on the safety requirements of the range, the order in which to complete the lanes and the course of fire.
- 4.8. **Starting time:** Competitors will not be allowed to participate in a competition if not already enrolled by the closing time for registrations as set by the organizers. It is mandatory for all competitors to attend a safety briefing.
- 4.9. **Disruption to competition:** Once a competition has begun, it is to continue without unnecessary delays to its completion except for exceptional circumstances (i.e. shooting could continue through a rain shower but would stop for a torrential downpour). Range Officers are required to exercise their discretion in this regard, taking the safety of all competitors and officials into consideration.
- 4.10. **Coaching:** There shall be no outside assistance of any nature, including spotting, whilst a competitor is on the firing line. Competitors may not accept information from spectators that may be regarded as providing them with an unfair competitive advantage. **The exception to this** is that Juniors under 15 years may be assisted and coached by one adult, between shots. However, no one other than the Junior may touch or support the rifle or the provided support / rest when the shot is fired, nor may the body of the Junior be supported or stabilised by another person. Only rests or supports supplied by the organisers may be used.
- 4.11. **Misfires:** In the event of a misfire with either rimfire or centrefire ammunition due to faulty ignition of the cartridge, the competitor shall notify the Range Officer.

The bolt needs to remain closed for 30 seconds to confirm that a delayed ignition (“hang fire”) is not taking place while pointing downrange. After this time has lapsed, the Range Officer will instruct the competitor to open the bolt and replace the cartridge. In the case of a misfire during a timed event, a competitor shall leave the bolt closed and notify the Range Officer. If found to constitute a misfire, the competitor shall then complete the remaining shots on that target. No additional time will be allowed to complete the remaining shots. Competitors must provide for misfires by having extra ammunition available.

- 4.12. Short cycling:** If the bolt is cycled but no round is loaded into the chamber (‘short cycling’), no additional time will be allowed and the requirements as per misfiring in Section 4.11 will be followed.
- 4.13. Malfunctions and jams:** In the event of a malfunction or jam, the competitor shall notify the Range Officer. An attempt will be made by the competitor to make their rifle safe, under supervision of the Range Officer. If the rifle cannot be cleared in a reasonable time, the rifle shall be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance shall an attempt be made to remove a stuck live round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm. A replacement rifle may be used, subject to the requirements of Section 3.9. No additional time will be allowed to complete the course of fire for that lane.
- 4.14. Cease fires:** The Range Officer will clear rifles (i.e. ensuring chambers and magazines are empty), rifles will be placed in a safe, stable position and competitors will step back until the cease fire is resolved. Competitors shall follow the Range Officer’s commands at all times and remain behind the firing line in the area the Range Officer will designate. If an emergency cease fire is required, any competitor may use “Cease Fire”. All shooting shall immediately be stopped.
- 4.15. Reshoots:** The Range Officer and / or the Discipline Chairman only, may if they deem that a competitor has not received a fair opportunity due to some act of providence or unforeseen circumstance (i.e. targets displaced or falling from the target frames or a malfunction of any range equipment) permit a target to be replaced by a new one or reinstate the original target. The affected competitor may then complete their course of fire at the new targets.

SECTION 5: SHOOTING POSITIONS

In the spirit of the competition, freedom is usually allowed to find a position within the general common sense guidelines for a target being engaged. From time to time specific positions may be prescribed to complete a lane in addition to the general guidelines below. In describing these positions it is assumed that the competitor is right handed, if left handed, the reverse applies. A sling that meets the specifications in Section 3.6 may be used in all positions unless specified otherwise.

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.

- 5.1. Standing unsupported** is defined as: standing erect on both feet without support of any kind for either the rifle or the competitor, with no part of the body or limbs to touch the ground or any other object, except the soles of the boots/shoes. The rifle must be held in both hands, with one hand forward of the pistol grip.
- 5.2. Standing supported** is defined as: standing erect on both feet and placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a support supplied 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.
- 5.3. Kneeling unsupported** is defined as: kneeling so that the competitor touches the ground only with the underside of the left foot and the lower underside of the right leg (i.e. the portion of the leg below the knee), including foot and knee, the buttocks resting on the right 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. No other part of the competitor's body shall touch the ground or any other support.
- 5.4. Kneeling supported** is defined as: kneeling so that the competitor touches the ground only with the underside of the left foot and the lower underside of the right leg (i.e. the portion of the leg below the knee), including foot and knee, the buttocks resting on the right heel and the left elbow on the left knee. No kneeling roll is to be used under the right instep. The provided support may be used by placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a support supplied 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.
- 5.5. Sitting unsupported** is defined as: sitting with only buttocks, lower portion of the legs and feet touching the ground. No other part of the body is to touch any support or object.
- 5.6. Sitting supported** is defined as: sitting with only buttocks, lower portion of the legs and feet touching the ground. The provided support may be used to stabilise the rifle.
- 5.7. Prone unsupported** is defined as: Laying 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. Forearms or hands may not touch the ground.
- 5.8. Prone supported** is defined as: Laying on the ground with the rifle controlled by both hands. The provided support may be used to stabilise the rifle.

SECTION 6: GRADES, AWARDS AND RECORDS

6.1. CLASSES

- Junior U/15 Under 15 years at start of competition
- Junior 15 years and over but under 18 years at start of competition
- Open

6.2. GRADES

Grades are based on previous performances in competitions consisting of 30+ shots and shall be recorded on the ranking list. The percentage quoted is the competitor's score expressed as a percentage of the possible maximum score.

Bronze	Below 60% or first time entrants
Silver	60% and higher but less than 80%
Gold	80% and higher

The first time a competitor has achieved the minimum requirements for a given performance grade, they will remain and compete in that grade. The discipline chairman may consider written requests and allow regression in performance classes based upon written submission from the competitor.

6.3. AWARDS

All competitors qualify to be overall winners on a specific day and for overall ranking.

Awards per class will depend on the number of entries for that class, at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

6.4. RECORDS

6.4.1. **Claiming records:** All scores to be recognised as State records must be fired at Registered Matches as per Section 4.2.4. State Records may be fired at any registered match.

6.4.2. **Ratification of records:** Record claims fired at a State Championship will be checked and ratified by the Sub Committee following completion of the competition. Record claims can be sent to the Discipline Chairman at any time. At the next Sub Committee meeting, following receipt of the claim, the Discipline Chairman will submit any Record claims to the Sub Committee meeting for ratification. As targets gets patched and reused, it is not practical to submit the actual targets for checking and ratification. The official signed score sheets will be used for this purpose.

The Discipline Chairman may record Record claims submitted during the year as provisional records until ratified by the Sub Committee. Following the ratification of records the Discipline Chairman will arrange for the records to be recorded.

6.4.3. **Current records** Competitors should familiarise themselves with record scores as it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure the Delegate submits score sheets relating to a record claim to the Discipline Chairman.

SECTION 7: SCORING, PENALTIES, CROSS FIRE, EXTRA SHOTS, etc.

- 7.1. **Inspecting targets:** A competitor may only advance past the shooting point to the targets once they have completed that specific lane and only for the purpose of scoring once the Range Officer has given the command to do so. Where a competitor is accompanying a junior or inexperienced competitor, they may only advance past the shooting point once they have completed shooting that specific lane. Targets may not be scrutinized through any optical devices while not shooting. This includes telescopes on rifles and binoculars.
- 7.2. **Approaching targets for scoring:** No competitor may be closer than 2m from their target or attempt to touch a target before the target is scored and they have signed off their score on the official scorecard.
- 7.3. **Shooting outside the allocated time slot:** Any competitor who fires a shot before the command to commence shooting will be deemed to have had an accidental discharge and will be disqualified. All shots fired at paper targets after the command to cease fire will have their highest scoring shot deducted. All shots fired at steel plates after the command to cease fire will score a miss (0 points) on that plate.
- 7.4. **Cross fires:** If a competitor fires at the wrong target, a nil score will be entered for each shot that competitor missed, even if their shots can be identified on any other target.
- 7.5. If a competitor fires **more than the stipulated number of shots** for a specific lane, the highest scoring shots will be deducted until the correct number of shots remains and those remaining shots shall be used to score the target.
- 7.6. If there are **additional shots on a target not fired by that competitor**, the following will apply: If the calibre can be distinguished, the competitor is scored on his own calibre only. If not, the Range Officer will apply his discretion to score the target, taking all circumstances of the situation into consideration. If that is not possible, the Range Officer will engage the dispute committee for a decision. Competitors must provide for a potential reshoot by having extra ammunition available.
- 7.7. If found to practice **misconduct** in any way, including intentionally firing additional shots on their own target or on any other target or using or participate in using range-finding equipment for the purpose of enhancing anyone's performance in the competition, such competitor will be disqualified under section 2.6.
- 7.8. **Scoring:** If there is no visible space between the calibre sized hole and the scoring line, the higher scoring zone will apply. THE EXCEPTION: If a bullet hole touches a scoring line between an area indicating a miss (zero score outside the target area) and a negative score area, the negative (lower) will count. For example: The line between a positive score (30, 20, 15, etc.) and a negative score (-15, -5, etc.) results in the positive score (30, 20, 15, etc.), but the line between Zero (0) and a negative score (-15, -5, etc.) results in the negative score

(-15, - 5, etc.). See Appendix C for examples of how these rules should be interpreted.

- 7.9. Gauging shot value:** If doubt exists if the bullet hole touches a scoring line, the Range Officer may insert a gauge of the same calibre as the competitor was using into the hole without distorting the edges and confirm if there is any visible gap between the hole and the scoring line.
- 7.10. V-Scores:** The inner circle of some 30 score areas will be scored as 30.1 to help distinguish between competitors in the event of the same final score. Where competitors have identical scores after completion of the competition, the higher placed competitor will be determined by highest score achieved on lane 1. If their lane 1 scores are equal, the same process will be repeated for lanes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 until a distinction can be made.
- 7.11. Scoring of steel plates:** The Range Officer shall designate a person who will visually confirm a hit through detecting impact on the plate surface. Binoculars or spotting scopes may be used for this purpose. Gongs engaged out of the prescribed sequence will be scored as a miss.
- 7.12.** The **Range Officer's judgment** is final, except as described in Section 2.8.

SECTION 8: RANGE COMMANDS

Following the Range Officer's explanation of the specific lane's course of fire, position, etc. the range commands that will precede firing will be:

8.1. Hunting rifle range commands – NON TIMED event

- 8.1.1. Shooters, you may load x rounds
- 8.1.2. Shooters, are you ready? (wait 3 seconds)
- 8.1.3. Stand by
- 8.1.4. Commence (one second delay) fire
- 8.1.5. (On completion of the course of fire the Range Officer clears rifles and competitors rack the rifles).
- 8.1.6. When all lanes are finished, Range Officer closes the range, moves forward, scores and patches targets

8.2. Hunting rifle commands – TIMED events

- 8.2.1 Shooters, you may load x rounds
- 8.2.2 Shooters, are you ready? (wait 3 seconds)
- 8.2.3 Stand by

- 8.2.4 Commence (one second delay) fire
- 8.2.5 Give warnings at the following intervals:
- 90 seconds remaining
 - 60 seconds remaining
 - 30 seconds remaining
 - 10 seconds remaining
- 8.2.6 Count down from 5 to 3 seconds left, followed by “cease”, (one second delay)
“fire”
- 8.2.7 (On completion of the course of fire the Range Officer clears rifles and competitors rack the rifles)
- 8.2.8 When all lanes are finished, Range Officer closes the range, moves forward, scores and patches targets

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this document:

COACHING	Providing assistance, including feedback about distances, wind strength, shooting positions or spotting
COMPETITION	A contest held where a winner is determined after completing all prescribed shots.
COURSE OF FIRE	The prescribed shooting position, number of shots, sequence and targets to be engaged.
DETAIL	Group of competitors.
LANE	A simulated hunting scenario which comprises one part of the total range layout.
RANGE	All the lanes combined form the range. May also refer to the SSAA club where the competition is held.
SPOTTING	Providing feedback on the point of impact of a previous shot on a paper target or gong

APPENDIX B: PROTEST RESOLUTION FORM

Appeal - Dispute Resolution Data collection.

Shooter	Name:		Match Entry #		Member number	
Event	Date:		Time:		Deposit	NOT Collected / Collected
Location	Range Officer		Lane #		Target # and type	
Main Issue?						
Key question?			Rulebook reference		Outcome	UPHELD / REJECTED
Notes:						

Signatures:

Competitor: _____

Range Officer: _____

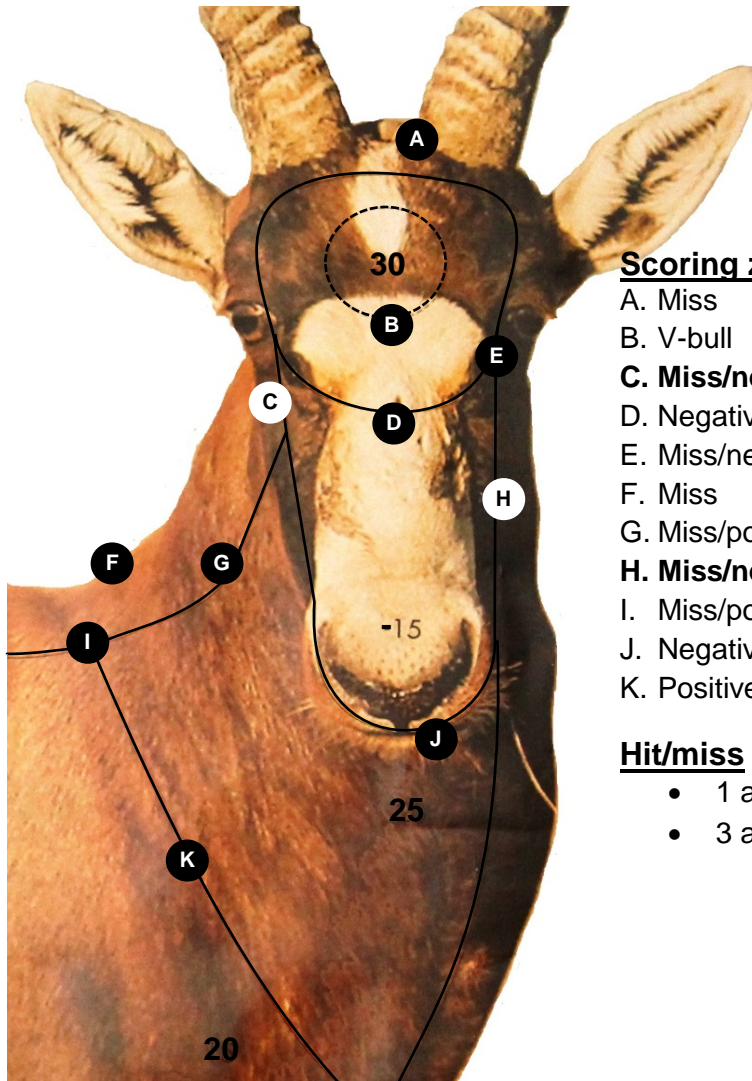
Committee member: _____

Committee member: _____

Committee member: _____

Committee member: _____

APPENDIX C: TARGET SCORING ZONES



Scoring zones and resultant score

A. Miss	(Score = 0)
B. V-bull	(Score = 30.1)
C. Miss/negative	(Score = -15)
D. Negative/positive	(Score = 30)
E. Miss/negative/positive	(Score = 30)
F. Miss	(Score = 0)
G. Miss/positive	(Score = 25)
H. Miss/negative	(Score = -15)
I. Miss/positive/positive	(Score = 25)
J. Negative/positive	(Score = 25)
K. Positive/positive	(Score = 25)

Hit/miss

- 1 and 2 = miss
- 3 and 4 = hit

