

8 Big Game Rifle

A brief description

The Big Game Rifle Club began in Victoria in 1983 by a small group of Melbourne enthusiasts. A few years later, groups in Queensland and New South Wales were also established. Western Australia is the most recent state to establish a club.

The discipline's charter is to foster the collection, preservation and use of classic big game rifles.

The rifles in the discipline are hunting rifles and the courses of fire attempt to simulate various hunting conditions. Many of the members are active hunters and participation allows them to practise their accuracy as well as rifle handling skills. Safety is paramount, with the emphasis placed on offhand shooting, rapid fire, rapid reloading and the use of open sights. No slings are used. Scopes can be used; however, in most events a small handicap applies.



100 metres

The range

Most events are shot offhand at 100 metres and feature timed sections.



Competitions

States hold annual state championships and a national championship is conducted each year by the national body. In the larger states, such as Victoria, interstate and inter-club competitions are held monthly, with up to seven events per day.

Firearms

The firearms used within the discipline cover a wide range. Overall, they fit into the description of sporting rifles but this includes, literally, all types imaginable, including double rifles, bolt actions, pump actions, lever actions, single shots of all types, bore rifles and Paradox arms.

Calibres range from .22 rimfire to mighty four bores, although the bulk of the events are shot with calibres in a range from .338 WM to .470 nitro.

The discipline encourages the use of classic and older firearms but most of the classes are defined by calibre and thus modern rifles are perfectly acceptable.

Shoot Big Game Rifle

Most states and territories have clubs that shoot Big Game Rifle matches. Contact your local SSAA range, the SSAA office in your state or the Big Game Rifle National Discipline Chairman to see if they conduct matches near you.



Targets

Targets are standard 50-metre pistol targets, although occasionally a more colorful animal target will be used.

Scoring

Targets are scored in a simple way, with equal scores being separated by the winner having the most 10s.

Other equipment

Other than an adequate firearm and ammunition, there is no other equipment needed to take part in the discipline. Regular hunting attire is most adequate.

