



BENCHREST RIFLE

OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

PART B

FLY SHOOT CHAMPIONSHIP

Revised 2013

No. 8

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Benchrest Rifle Official National Rules are issued in three parts

Part A: Benchrest Group and Score Championships

Part B: Fly Shoot Championships

Part C: International Rimfire Benchrest (IRB)

In circumstances not covered in Part B and C then Part A should be consulted.

These Rules, for the conduct of National Championships, have been compiled by the Discipline Subcommittee, with amendments by the SSAA National Discipline Chairmans' Conference and approved and ratified for printing by the SSAA Inc National Board

BENCHREST RIFLE

NATIONAL RULES

PART B

FLY SHOOT CHAMPIONSHIPS

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The Rules in this Part B Rulebook are a component of the Benchrest Rulebook and in circumstances not covered in Part B then Part A rules should be consulted.

Background and History

The Fly Shoot event was created by benchrest shooters who saw the need for a way to prove centrefire rifles under organised range conditions at a longer range that is 500 metres. After many months the competition format was settled. Rifles would be shot off the benches, but unlike short range benchrest, the match would be for group size, and include the score. This would encourage competitors to place their groups with a higher degree of accuracy than in short range benchrest matches.

In 1990 the first match was advertised, including in the SSAA Shooters Journal, as an open challenge to SSAA members, Police and Military personnel, and any other interested group. The response was overwhelming, attracting 40 competitors. The first Fly Shoot match was shot on the SSAA Canberra range in 1990, and was a huge success, with competitors keen to have it as a regular annual event.

The 20th annual Fly Shoot was contested on the SSAA Canberra range in 2010. The first official SSAA Fly Shoot National Championships was held in Canberra, ACT in 2012.

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1.1 The development and encouragement of benchrest competition to achieve extreme accuracy in firearms, ammunition, equipment and shooting methods.
- 1.1.2 To standardise, where practical, on an International basis, the entire benchrest shooting program so that targets, ranges, scoring methods, records and match procedures will be uniform and compatible.
- 1.1.3 To assist and encourage any individual or organisation affiliated with SSAA Inc in the promotion of benchrest shooting.
- 1.1.4 To gather and make available to SSAA members pertinent statistics and technical data.
- 1.1.5 To stimulate inspiration in the field of new ideas, designs and techniques; to arouse investigation into the feasibility and practical application of progressive concepts, or discoveries, with regard to safe firearms, sights and ammunition.

SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES

2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

A competitor who competes in a National 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 Inc National Board.

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 National Championship shall pay no more than one half of the standard adult entry fee.

If the Discipline's National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 National 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 Rule 2.8 the Protest and 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 National 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 National 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 Rule 2.8 for the Protest and Appeals Committee.

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 National 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 National 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 National Discipline Chairman, any one of whom may be a competitor. The National 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 (notwithstanding any Rule or Rules of law to the contrary).

In competitions where more than one State is represented a delegate from any of the States represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the National 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 National 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 National 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:

2.8.7.1 have a right to be heard before the Appeals Committee and to remain in attendance during each session of the Appeals Committee.

2.8.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.

- 2.8.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
- 2.8.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.
- 2.8.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
- 2.8.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.

2.8.8 Immediately 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.

2.9 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

State and Territory Associations or Bodies may devise their own type of shooting competitions and formulate their own Rules for the conduct of supplementary competitions, but in National Championships they will be obliged to abide by the Rules laid down from time to time by the SSAA Inc for the conduct of National Championships.

The conduct of supplementary events shall not in any way infringe on the conduct and completion of the core National events.

SECTION 3: FLY SHOOT

The SSAA Fly Shoot Championships has Centrefire and Rimfire classes.

3.1 RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

3.1.1 CENTREFIRE

3.1.1.1 Calibre

Any legal, registered centrefire rifle, up to and including .49 calibre, may be used.

If the range where the match is to be held is restricted to smaller calibres or not able to accommodate calibres up to .49, the match may have restrictions on calibres, but Match Organisers must include this information in any advertising or notice of the match to be held.

3.1.1.2 Other specifications

The rifle may have:

- any stock configuration
- any barrel
- any trigger (other than release type)
- any scope or sighting system

3.1.1.3 **Maximum Weight**

- Heavy gun unlimited weight, but must be manually lifted on to the bench
- Light gun (including bipod if fitted) limit 17 lbs (7.711 kgs)

3.1.1.4 **Restrictions**

- No return-to-battery set-ups (e.g. rail guns)
- No muzzle brakes

3.1.2 RIMFIRE

3.1.2.1 **Rimfire rifles**

- Any .22LR rimfire
- any stock configuration
- any barrel
- any trigger (other than release type)
- any scope or sighting system

3.1.2.2 **Maximum Weight:**

- Rimfire 17 lbs (7.711 kgs)

3.1.2.3 **Restrictions:**

- No return-to-battery set-ups (eg rail guns)

3.2 EQUIPMENT

3.2.1 Light rifle is allowed to have a bipod, but the bipod is included in the weight of the rifle.

3.2.2 Any scope, unlimited power or sighting configuration, including spotting scopes

3.2.3 Rifles are to be shot from restricted rests as defined in Benchrest Rulebook Part A Rule 5.2. Rifles need not contact the front sandbag for the full width of the fore-end.

3.2.4 Rests (sand bags) may have a stabiliser plate

3.2.5 Cameras for the purpose of viewing targets will not be allowed forward of the firing line during the course of the match.

3.2.6 Wind flags are allowed, provided they do not hinder other competitors

3.2.7 Competitors may spot for each other during the competition

3.2.8 All rifles intended to be used in Light Rifle class or Rimfire class to be weighed prior to the commencement of the match.

3.3 COURSE OF FIRE AND TIME LIMITS

3.3.1 Course of fire

3.3.1.1 Competitors will complete one competition target per detail.

3.3.1.2 Competitors may use only eight rounds per target; 5 rounds on the target for scoring, and 3 rounds for sighting on a sighting target (paper, steel or other medium)

3.3.1.3 Matches for Centrefire and Rimfire may consist of 10 or 5 targets, as decided by the Match Organisers plus an optional warmer target.

3.3.1.4 Competitors may enter in both centre-fire classes at the Match Organisers discretion but must indicate their primary class if insufficient places are available.

3.3.1.5 2 Gun matches will consist of:
Light Gun and Heavy Gun or alternative
Centrefire Rifle and Rimfire Rifle

For the purpose of calculating the winner and placegetters in a Centrefire and Rimfire 2 Gun match the competitor/s must nominate, before the Centrefire competition begins, which of the Light Gun or Heavy Gun score is to be counted for the Centrefire component of the 2 Gun.

The only permissible alteration to the nomination is in the event of a mechanical failure of the nominated rifle in the Centrefire class, the failure must have been recorded at the time of its occurrence or immediately afterwards with the match officials.

3.3.2 Time limits

Competitors will have ten (10) minutes to complete their warmer target. For all other targets competitors will have seven (7) minutes to complete each target.

3.3.3 Match Commands

To ensure the championship is conducted without confusion, the following match commands are to be used.

Announce: Display eight rounds

- 1) No ammunition is to be placed in the rifle action before the Commence Fire is given.
- 2) This is Relay.....Match.....
- 3) Are all shooters ready
- 4) You haveminutes to complete this match.
- 5) Place bolts in your rifle
- 6) Commence Fire
- 7) Half Time
- 8) You have two minutes to complete your firing.
- 9) You have one minute to complete your firing
- 10) You have 30 seconds to complete your firing.
- 11) five seconds
- 12) "Sound of whistle" - Cease Fire
- 13) Remove bolts from rifles.

And when determined as appropriate by the Match or Firing line captain they will announce:

Clear the Benches
Target Crew may go forward

Should an unusual circumstance arise during the course of fire in a relay then the Match Director should use the commands and procedures available within Part A of the Benchrest rulebook as appropriate.

3.4 RANGE SPECIFICATIONS

3.4.1 Steel sighting plates for Centre-fire matches should be placed above or below the competition targets.

3.4.2 Paper sighting targets may be placed above, below or to one side of the competition targets.

3.4.3 Target Distance

Centrefire match: Targets will be at a distance of 500 metres with an allowed variation of +/- 2%

Rimfire match: Targets will be at a distance of 200 yards with an allowed variation of +/- 2%

3.5 SCORING

Target to be scored for group and score

3.5.1 Best edge scoring. If bullet touches the border of the next highest ring, with no gap, the higher score will be awarded. All shots which cannot be scored by visual scoring will be checked in Centrefire class with a plug appropriate

for the calibre used on the target. In Rimfire a .22 ISSF / USAS Inward gauge (5.60-5.65 mm or 0.2205-0.2205”) and indicated on the target with a **P**. A target cannot be plugged more than once including as part of protest or score query.

3.5.2 Any part of the Fly touched by a shot will count as 10.01

Group points for under 1” etc.

3.5.3 Points for Group:

Under one inch	10 points
Under two inches.....	9 points
Under three inches.....	8 points
Under four inches.....	7 points
Under five inches.....	6 points
Under six inches	5 points
Under seven inches	4 points
Under eight inches.....	3 points
Under nine inches.....	2 points
Under ten inches.....	1 point

3.5.4 Breaking of tied scores:

On a single Target:

For the breaking of ties on a single target the first tie-break will be the number of hits on the “Fly”, if still unresolved then the number of tens, nines, eights, etc. will continue. If still unresolved the smallest group measured by the scorer on the relevant targets will break the tie.

On a Match:

The first tie-break will be the number of hits on the “Fly”; if still unresolved then a count back to the single highest target score (regardless of sequence) until all targets have been compared; if again unresolved then a tally of individual shots for total number of tens, nines, eights etc. will continue until the tie is broken.

3.5.5 Extra Shots:

Where a competitor has fired more than the permitted number of shots on the target, the highest valued shots will be struck out from the target, until only the permitted number of shots remain.

3.5.6 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, shall not receive the benefit of the cross-fired shot when this can be identified. If the cross-fired shot cannot be identified, it is assumed to be the lowest valued shot on the target.

3.6 TARGET SPECIFICATIONS

3.6.1 500 METRE EVENT

The target is a 10 value target, diameter of 8.54 inches (21.7 cm). The centre scoring ring with the fly is 1.77 inches (4.5 cm) diameter, with a value of 10. The width of scoring rings with the value 1 to 9, is 0.35 inches (0.9cm).

The overall dimensions of the target are: Height 23.5 inches (59.7 cm) and width 16.5 inches (42 cm) with a variation of +/-2%. The target is to be yellow, with scoring rings and printing in red.

See target design at Appendix 1.

3.6.2 200 YARD EVENT

The same approved target is used for 500 metre centrefire and 200 yard rimfire.

3.7 CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENTS

3.7.1 After the 2015 National Fly Championship held annually at the SSAA ACT range in Canberra the event shall move to the rotation calendar for Benchrest events. This period will allow other State Branches to develop ranges and experience with the match.

3.7.2 If the SSAA ACT range in Canberra is not available for the National Championships during this period, the Discipline Chairman may seek expression of interest and can then allocate the National Championships to another State.

3.7.3 If the range where the match is to be held has restrictions on calibre and is not able to accommodate calibres up to .49, the Match organisers must include all appropriate information in advertising and notices of the match in the appropriate Association media.

3.8 MEDALS AND AWARDS

(to be read in conjunction with Section 18 of Part A of the Rule Book).

3.8.1 A register shall be established of perpetual trophies awarded at National events and be maintained by the National Awards Secretary.

3.8.2 National medals will be awarded as follows: (See Part A Rule 18.1.1)

Gold for small group in both Light and Heavy Gun

Gold for highest score in both Light and Heavy Gun

Gold for small group in Rimfire

Gold for highest score in Rimfire

Gold, Silver and Bronze for Grand in Heavy Gun

Gold, Silver and Bronze for Grand in Light Gun

Gold, Silver and Bronze for Grand in Rimfire

Gold, Silver and Bronze for 2 Gun Grand in Light and Heavy Gun

Gold Silver and Bronze for 2 Gun Grand in Centrefire and Rimfire

Gold for highest placed Junior under 15 years (as defined by National

membership category at time of competition) in Centrefire (regardless of class).

Gold for highest placed Junior over 15 and under 18 years (as defined by National membership category at time of competition) in Centrefire (regardless of class).

Gold for highest placed Junior under 15 years (as defined by the National Membership category at time of competition) in Rimfire (if held)

Gold for highest placed Junior over 15 and under 18 years (as defined by the National Membership category at time of competition) in Rimfire (if held)

- 3.8.3** A Fly patch is awarded for a hit on a Fly. If a competitor records more than one hit on a Fly, the Fly Patch awarded will carry a number representing the total number of hits on the Fly for that competition.

3.9 NATIONAL RECORDS

- 3.9.1** There shall be records of the best total score, best single target score and smallest group in each of the 2 classes at 500 metres only.

3.10 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

3.10.1 Random Bench Draw

The Host Branch / Club is to conduct a bench draw in a non-discriminatory (random) manner that neither favours nor disadvantages any competitor deliberately. This bench draw is to be published / posted at least 24 hours prior to the commence of the match, unless otherwise agreed by all competitors at the time of lodging their entries

APPENDIX 1:

Illustration of FLY target

