



BENCHREST RIFLE

OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

PART A

**BENCHREST GROUP AND SCORE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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 A

BENCHREST GROUP AND SCORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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No. 8

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 (not withstanding 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: DEFINITIONS

In these rules the following words and expressions shall have the meanings set out against them.

- 3.1** "SSAA Inc" means SPORTING SHOOTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC being the National body of SPORTING SHOOTERS' ASSOCIATIONS of AUSTRALIA.
- 3.2** "State" means the SPORTING SHOOTERS' ASSOCIATION of any Australian State or Territory.
- 3.3** "Branch" means a full member of a State.

- 3.4** "Host" means a State, Branch or affiliated Association conducting a Registered Benchrest Tournament.
- 3.5** "Benchrest Committee" means SSAA Inc Benchrest Subcommittee.
- 3.6** "Appeals Committee" means Protest, Disputes and Appeals Committee.
- 3.7** "Records Committee" means SSAA Inc National Benchrest Records Subcommittee.
- 3.8** The definition of the words "relay" and "detail" in these rules have the meanings set out in this Section 3.8.1 and 3.8.2 unless the connotation of either word, as used in certain circumstances, implies otherwise, e.g. "target detail".
- 3.8.1** The word "**relay**" means an appearance at the benches by a number of competitors during which they shoot one group. A relay may be composed of one, two or more details.
- 3.8.2** The word "**detail**" means any one group of competitors into which a relay has been divided when the number of competitors exceeds the number of benches available e.g. if there are 37 competitors and 15 benches, then it would be necessary to break the competitors in each relay into 3 details; one detail of 13 competitors and two details of 12 competitors. The number of competitors in each detail shall be as proportionate, as the number of benches, and the number of competitors will permit.
- 3.9** "Section" means a **Section of these Rules**.

SECTION 4: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND CLASSES

- 4.1** All rifles must have a safe trigger system that is released by a finger of either hand, and have a trigger guard. There will be six classes of rifle for group shooting, the specifications of which are shown in this Section 4 and four classes for application shooting and such specifications are shown in Section 17. Muzzle Brakes are not allowed in any Benchrest competition.

4.2 EXPERIMENTAL / UNLIMITED BENCHREST RIFLE

This shall be any rifle having a barrel not less than 18 inches (457.2 mm) long, measured from the bolt face to the muzzle, and a safely operated firing mechanism. The magnification of any telescopic sight shall be unrestricted. It may be fired from restricted or unrestricted rests (as defined in Section 5).

4.3 HEAVY BENCHREST

This shall be any rifle having a barrel not less than 18 inches long, measured from the bolt face to the muzzle, and a safe, manually operated, firing mechanism that does not include the use of pressure fluid, gas or remote control. The use of an electric trigger is permitted; however, all accessories associated with such trigger, such as batteries, must be integrated as part of the rifle and included in the total rifle weight. The width of the stock shall not exceed 3 inches (76.2 mm) at any

point. The magnification of telescopic sight shall be unrestricted. The total weight of the rifle and telescopic sight, including all accessories such as mirage shades and batteries for electric triggers, shall not exceed 13 pounds 8 ounces (6.123 kg). The rifle must be fired from restricted rests only.

4.4 LIGHT BENCHREST

This shall be any rifle that does not have a total weight in excess of 10 pounds 8 ounces (4.763 kg) including telescopic sight and all accessories, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle, (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

4.5 SPORTER BENCHREST

This shall be any rifle that does not have a total weight in excess of 9 pounds (4.082 kg) including telescopic sight and all accessories, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

4.6 .22LR LIGHT RIMFIRE BENCHREST RIFLE

This shall be any rimfire rifle, chambered for the .22 calibre long rifle rimfire cartridge only, that does not have a total weight in excess of 7 pounds 12 ounces (3.515 kg) including telescopic sight and all accessories, and the telescopic sight shall be restricted to 6 magnifications (variable magnification telescopic sights shall be set at 6 magnifications or less and taped) and the width of the stock shall not exceed 2.25 inches (57.15 mm) at any point, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

4.7 .22LR HEAVY RIMFIRE BENCHREST RIFLE

This shall be any rimfire rifle, chambered for the .22 calibre long rifle rimfire cartridge only, that does not have a total weight in excess of 14 pounds (6.350 kg) including telescopic sight and all accessories, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

4.8 RIFLE NOT MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS

A competitor may at the discretion of the Supervising Tournament Captain and where range facilities permit, use a rifle not meeting the specifications of a particular class however the competitor:

- 4.8.1** Will not be eligible for any awards, records, prizes, trophies or any other benefit pertaining to that class or any event which includes that class and
- 4.8.2** Will not have their results counted toward any other relevant result and
- 4.8.3** Will not be eligible for a place in the results and
- 4.8.4** Must pay the required entry fee and abide by all the rules in this rulebook and

4.8.5 The entry of the competitor into the Tournament will not be counted as an entry for the purposes of meeting any requirement for a minimum number of competitors as laid out in these rules.

If any competitor enters the competition with such a rifle, all competitors must be advised of this fact and the requirements of this rule.

4.9 A rifle meeting the Hunter or Sporter Benchrest specifications may be used in the Light Benchrest class; and Hunter, Sporter Benchrest and Light Benchrest rifles may be used in the Heavy Benchrest Class; while any of these rifles may be used in the Experimental / Unlimited Benchrest Class.

4.10 **A competitor may, during the shooting of any course of fire, match or group:** change to a rifle of the same calibre provided that each rifle used complies with the specifications laid down in this Section 4 for that particular class and that such change is notified in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 10.10, or; change to a rifle of a different calibre provided that each rifle used complies with the specifications laid down in this Section 4 for that particular class and that such change is notified in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 10.10 and that the competitor is, subsequently, able to demonstrate that such change was necessary

4.11 BARREL TUNERS

A muzzle attachment may be added to a rifle barrel when used as a tuning device. The rifle with the attachment in place, must still meet the rifle requirements. Once the command "Commence Fire" is given by the Range Officer or electronic audio device, adjustment of muzzle attachments at the firing line may occur if the competitor removes their bolt from the rifle and may be undertaken standing or seated. If a competitor does not remove their bolt prior to adjusting the tuner, they will be disqualified.

4.12 Any proposed change that relates to rifle specifications of any Benchrest or Hunter class shall be via referendum of all Benchrest competitors who have qualified for the class concerned by attendance and competition in two Registered matches in that class, within two years prior to the date at which the referendum was called, unless such changes are required to comply with an International specification change.

SECTION 5: RESTS

5.1 Restricted rests only shall be allowed to be used in .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest, .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest, .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter, .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter, Centrefire Hunter, Heavy Centrefire Hunter, Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest and Heavy Benchrest classes. Either restricted or unrestricted rests may be used in the Experimental / Unlimited Benchrest Class.

5.2 RESTRICTED RESTS

5.2.1 Restricted rests shall comprise a front rest to support the front part of the rifle, and a rear rest to support the rear part of the rifle; neither rest may be attached to the

bench, the rifle or to the other rest, and each must be movable independently of the other.

- 5.2.2** The front rest may be a block or pedestal, and may incorporate adjustments for windage and elevation, but shall not have any guiding means; it shall be used in conjunction with a sandbag on which to rest the fore-end of the rifle; the section of fore-end contacting the sandbag shall be for full width of the stock. The rear rest shall be a sandbag only, except that a vertical spacer shall be allowed between this sandbag and the bench-top. Such spacer shall not incorporate adjustments for windage or elevation, nor shall it contain any protrusions which can be inserted into the bench-top or the sandbag and the top and bottom of the spacer shall be substantially flat. The rear sandbag shall not be contained in any manner.
- 5.2.3** A sandbag shall be a bag or combination of bags, without extra additions or devices, the covering of which shall be made of cloth, canvas, leather, or any other similar material that can be easily flexed by the fingers. The contents with which it is filled shall be a dry divided non-metallic substance, such as, but not limited to sand, gravel, grain or sawdust, packed loosely enough so that the bag may be easily deformed by pressure of the fingers.
- 5.2.4** Neither the front nor rear rest shall be fashioned so that either or both, or in conjunction with the sandbag or any other part of the rest or rests, co-act with the rifle to restrain recoil, or twisting of the rifle after firing. The rifle must be capable of being lifted clear of the sandbags, or rests, without exerting more effort than would be required to support the rifle itself.
- 5.2.5** No devices or attachments designed to stabilise the rifle, reduce its recoil, or twisting torque after firing, by co-acting with the rests or sandbags, shall be fitted to the rifle, after the rifle has been weighed, checked, and cleared as meeting the requirements for a particular class.
- 5.2.6** Guiding means shall constitute any device, addition, contour or dimension on a rifle of any class, designed or adapted to co-act with mating or reciprocal features of a rest or rests, to guide the rifle's return to the firing position, so that for each shot, it shall not be necessary to re-aim the rifle optically to the degree of accuracy specified in Section 5.2.7.
- 5.2.7** Any rests with or without sandbags, and be they combined or not, with contours or additions on the rifle, from which a five shot group of five (5) minutes of angle or less at 100 yards can be fired without re-aiming the rifle optically after the first shot, shall conclusively be deemed to constitute a guiding means and shall not be permitted in the .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest, .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter, .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest, .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class, Light Centrefire Hunter, Heavy Centrefire Hunter, Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest or Heavy Benchrest class competitions.

5.3 UNRESTRICTED RESTS

- 5.3.1** Unrestricted rests may incorporate guiding means, and adjustments for elevation and windage in any or all of the rests.
- 5.3.2** Unrestricted may be used with or without sandbags, and may be comprised of only one rest, or of two or more rests. They are as the word implies "unrestricted".

5.3.3 Unrestricted rests may be clamped to the bench.

SECTION 6: COURSES OF FIRE AND TIME LIMITS

- 6.1** The course of fire for all Registered Tournaments may consist of either a single distance match or dual distance matches as defined in these Sections 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5. When a dual distance course of fire is undertaken matches may be broken in time, however the second distance match must be completed within 48 hours of the first to be eligible for a class aggregate record.
- 6.2** In all classes the provision of a Warm Up target is optional to the Host as well as the competitor (when same is posted). Where the Host opts not to post a Warm Up target it is recommended that competitors be informed that the first target of each distance is for record; however the onus is on the competitor to ascertain the status of the first target of each distance in each Registered match.
- 6.3** A Registered Tournament may comprise two different classes contested simultaneously where facilities and personnel permit.
- 6.4 IN ALL SINGLE DISTANCE REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS**
- 6.4.1** For the Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest and Heavy Benchrest classes, the course of fire shall be five targets of five shot groups plus an optional Warm Up target at either 100 yards, 200 yards or 300 yards.
- 6.4.2** For the Experimental/Unlimited class, the course of fire shall be five targets of ten shot groups plus an optional Warm Up target at either 100 yards, 200 yards or 300 yards.
- 6.4.3** For the .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes, the course of fire shall be five targets of five shot groups plus an optional Warm Up target at either 50 metres or 100 yards.
- 6.5 IN ALL DUAL DISTANCE REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS**
- 6.5.1** For the Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest and Heavy Benchrest classes the complete course of fire shall be five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 100 yards and five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 200 yards, or
- 6.5.2** five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 200 yards and five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 300 yards.
- 6.5.3** For the Experimental / Unlimited Benchrest class, the complete course of fire shall be five targets of ten shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 100 yards and five targets of ten shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 200 yards, or
- 6.5.4** five targets of ten shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 200 yards and five targets of ten shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 300 yards.

- 6.5.5** For the .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes, the complete course of fire shall be five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 50 metres and five targets of five shot groups, plus an optional Warm Up target at 100 yards.
- 6.6** In the .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes the targets to be used are the 100 yard benchrest target at 50 metres and the 200 yard target at 100 yards as defined in Section 11.
- 6.7** For the first group of a class, or the first group after a change of distance, fifteen minutes shall be allowed for a ten shot group, and ten minutes for a five shot group. For subsequent groups twelve minutes shall be allowed for a ten shot group and seven minutes for a five shot group.
- 6.8** Competitors must be allowed not less than thirty minutes rest or preparation period between the end of one relay and the beginning of their next relay, if required by one or more competitors.
- 6.9** Only one group may be fired in any one relay.
- 6.10** Where there is only one detail in a relay and after the group has been fired, the thirty minutes rest or preparation period must elapse before the beginning of another group, if required by one or more competitors.
- 6.11** There shall be no exception to the requirement that all competitors must complete their string of fire within the time limits allowed, except as provided for in Sections 13.5, 9.5, 9.6.

SECTION 7: RANGE REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1** A range for Registered Tournaments must have provision for the posting of targets at all measured distances from the firing line at which the Registered Tournament is to be conducted.
- 7.2** The firing line shall preferably be coincident with the forward edge of the benches, but if it is to the rear of that line, then it shall be conspicuously marked on the top of the benches.
- 7.3** The range must provide moving backing strips behind the Record Targets to indicate the actual number of shots that have passed through the Record Target. The moving backing strips must move horizontally in one direction at a minimum speed of travel no less than one inch per minute. Reciprocating motion is also allowed so long as the above horizontal travel specified minimum is achieved. The moving backing strips shall not be mounted, stapled, glued or attached to any card or board for the width or length of the Record Target that would cause the bullet to deviate before the strike reaches the stationary backer. Black plastic film (200um) is an acceptable support for the moving backing strip. Moving backing strips shall not show any exposed portion or part that a competitor can see to shoot at, unless the bullet first passed through the Record Target.

- 7.3.1** Any rifle range registered for the conduct of Benchrest tournaments must notify the Chair of any range change or alteration made since the original range registration approval. Such notification is to be in writing detailing the changes and must be made by 1 November in the year preceding the National Championship or at least three months prior to any other registered match. This notice shall allow reasonable consideration and/or inspection of any proposed change or any change implemented prior to advising the Chair in writing. Changes not formally ratified by the Chair may impact on the range registration for the conduct of registered matches under these rules.
- 7.4** The range must provide black backing material between target and backing strip as an aid to competitors in locating their bullet strike. However, if the moving backing strip is black and of a material acceptable to the National Benchrest Committee and/or National Discipline Chairman, this requirement may be waived.
- 7.5** The range must provide stationary backing cards to enable the target detail and Official Scorer to determine if apparently cross-fired shots belong to the particular competitor on whose Record Target they appear, or have been cross-fired by another competitor. The stationary backing card is to be placed 36 inches behind the Record Target at 50 metres and 100 yards, 72 inches behind the Record Target at 200 yards and 108 inches behind the Record Target at 300 yards.
- 7.6** A range for Registered Tournaments shall not have less than five benches.
- 7.6.1** On ranges constructed after 1/1/74 it is mandatory that all benches be dual handed to allow either right or left handed competitors to fire from any bench.
- 7.6.2** On ranges constructed prior to 1/1/74 where all benches are unable to be reconstructed so as to be dual handed there must be at least 25% of the total number of benches that will accommodate left-handed competitors.
- 7.7** Where possible all benches should be aligned with targets however this is not a mandatory requirement on ranges constructed prior to 29/9/79. Ranges constructed prior to 29/9/79 should, if topographically possible, place targets to achieve such an alignment. Ranges developed after 29/9/79 should be constructed so that benches are aligned with targets to an accuracy of plus or minus half of one degree, measured from the centreline of the bench.
- 7.8** A bench should be a rigidly constructed table, being of a height to permit a competitor of more or less than average height to sit comfortably thereat, by merely increasing or decreasing the height of the stool on which he or she sits; or if separate stools are provided, then by choosing a stool, the height of which suits their physical build. A competitor need not sit down when firing a rifle on unrestricted rests. The National Discipline Chairman shall make available, for the purpose of range development, plans of bench designs which have been accepted by the Benchrest Subcommittee as being acceptable for use in Registered Tournaments.
- 7.9** The benches should be covered by a roof to protect competitors from the elements, such as sun and rain.

- 7.10** The layout of the range shall comply with the safety rules, such as effective butt stops and safety angles of fire, to comply with legal requirements of the State involved, for that range.
- 7.11** Wind indicators are required at 25 and 50 metres, 100, 150, 200 yards and in the case of 300 yard matches at 250 and 300 yards. Wind indicators shall be provided by the host unless competitors own wind indicators already fulfil this requirement. The wind indicators should be so placed that there will be a line of wind indicators flanking no more than every four benches e.g. if eight benches three lines of wind indicators would be required, twelve benches four lines, sixteen five lines and so on. The number of wind indicators stated is only the minimum requirement and the host may place more wind indicators, if they so choose, but not less. The type of wind indicators used shall be the prerogative of the Host but ideally should be so constructed as to show not only wind velocity, but direction as well. Competitors may place their own wind indicators subject to the following conditions:
- 7.11.1** The placement of any competitor's wind indicator(s) shall not obscure any part of any competitor's target card, additional sighting target or mirage indicator.
- 7.11.2** The placement of any competitor's wind indicator(s) shall not obstruct or interfere in any way with any equipment used by the Host in the conduct of any Registered Tournament.
- 7.11.3** Any competitor wishing to place any wind indicator(s) for any stage(s) of a Registered Tournament, must do so prior to the commencement of that stage, the time of which commencement shall be determined by the Host and promulgated with sufficient prior notice. For the purpose of this Section 7.11, "stage" shall mean a single distance match as defined in Section 6.1.
- 7.11.4** Having placed any wind indicator(s), no persons other than authorised Tournament Officials, may remove or reposition any wind indicator(s) until the completion of the particular stage of the Registered Tournament prior to which the wind indicator(s) were placed.
- 7.11.5** The Host shall be empowered to refuse the placement of any competitor's wind indicator(s) if such placement would contravene any restriction on such placement for safety or operational reasons.
- 7.12** It is recommended that the range provide a Public Address system and a timed electronic audio device to automatically announce all procedural commands in order that competitors can receive commands and time calls at the exact time and in identical format and manner. It is recognised that such a requirement may not be possible to implement and is therefore not mandatory but every effort should be made by the Host to comply.
- 7.13** Mirage indicators shall be mandatory at all Registered Tournaments. The type and design of such indicators shall be the prerogative of the Host. The Benchrest Committee shall make available, for the purpose of range development, plans of mirage indicators which have been accepted by the Benchrest Subcommittee as being suitable for use at Registered Tournaments.

- 7.14** The target detail will post an additional numbered sighting-in target , adjacent to each competitor's target frame, at all Registered matches, in addition to the first target of the day, distance change or change of class.

SECTION 8: CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENTS

8.1 CLASSES OF BENCHREST TOURNAMENT

- 8.1.1** Benchrest Tournaments shall be in two general classes: Registered Tournaments and Unregistered Tournaments. Only at Registered Tournaments will targets be accepted and recognised for record purposes. At the beginning of each year the Benchrest Committee should have published, and also advised all State Associations, the date and venue of all anticipated Registered Tournaments for that year.
- 8.1.2** During the year applications may be made to the Benchrest Committee by States, Branches or affiliated Associations for approval to hold Registered Tournaments during the current year, or for the year following. The application should be lodged via the State Delegate, however if this is not possible due to the unavailability of such Delegate, a duplicate of the application to the Benchrest Committee should be forwarded to the State Delegate by the applicant State, Branch or affiliated Association. Provided the application is lodged within sufficient time for the Benchrest Committee or its Chairman to make the necessary investigations relating to range requirements, the applicants' ability to conduct a Registered Tournament in accordance with the required standards, the presence of one or both State Delegates or proxy as defined in Section 8.2.3, and any duplication of other Registered Tournament dates that may clash with previously accepted and approved Registered Tournaments, these applications should be approved by the Benchrest Committee or its Chairman. In the case of ranges already approved and accepted for the conduct of Registered Tournament "sufficient time" is defined as a minimum of 48 hours prior to the match requiring registration.
- 8.1.3** Unregistered Tournaments may be conducted as and when any Association or branch sees fit to do so, but must not be advertised as a championship event and must clearly state in all notices that it is a non registered event, as such billing is the province of registered matches.
- 8.1.4** At all National Championships the course of fire format to be applied will be the shortest yardage or meterage (as applicable) of each class first.

8.2 REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS

- 8.2.1** A minimum of five (5) competitors is required to constitute a Registered Tournament.
- 8.2.2** Registered Tournaments shall be held only on SSAA Rifle Ranges approved by the Benchrest Committee and must comply with the specifications and mandatory requirements laid down in Section 7 and must be able to comply with all requirements laid down in this Section 8.
- 8.2.3** At every Registered Tournament, a State Delegate, from the state in which the Registered Tournament is held, must be in attendance. Should a State Delegate

not be able to attend a proxy may be appointed, however such proxy will only be recognised if the proxy authorisation is in writing and signed by both State Delegates.

- 8.3** States, Branches or affiliated Associations wishing to have their ranges accepted and approved for the conduct of Registered Tournaments, should make application to the Benchrest Committee, who shall make investigations to ensure that the range facilities comply with the requirements of these Rules as stated in Section 7 and that the State, Branch or affiliated Association has adequate measuring devices, moving backing strips and all other necessary equipment and facilities; also enough personnel sufficiently well versed in measuring targets, and operating the other equipment and devices required to conduct a Registered Tournament in keeping with the standards as laid down from time to time by the Benchrest Committee and these Rules.
- 8.4** The Host of a Registered Tournament shall be responsible for all organisational details, the provision or engagement of all manual help and for all expenses incurred.
- 8.5** The publication and distribution of all program notices, prior publicity, and advertising associated with a Registered Tournament shall be attended to by the Host.
- 8.5.1** Any Host that wishes to undertake pre-registration for a Registered Tournament must advertise to that effect, in all notices, publicity and advertising with a prior closing date, otherwise such pre-registration cannot be implemented. Nomination fees relating to pre-registration need not be paid until the day of the event. The Host may request a non-refundable deposit to accompany the written pre-nomination which shall be acknowledged by a receipt (electronic or hard copy).
- 8.5.2** The Host shall also provide a competition nomination form containing provision for insertion of the nomination fee, rifle class or event nominated for, nominees name, State Association or branch to which the member is affiliated, expiry date of SSAA membership, rifle, scope and ammunition details; i.e. Cartridge or calibre, Action, Barrel, Telescopic sight and power, Stocker, Gunsmith, Case, Primer, Powder load and Projectile weight, type and maker.
- 8.5.3** At the time of nomination competitors may request sharing of equipment, and/or wind indicators with other competitors but this is to be at the discretion of the Tournament Organisers where range facilities permit.
- 8.5.4** Space for rifle, scope and ammunition details should if possible be duplicated, in case the competitor shoots a different rifle or calibre at each distance, or otherwise changes rifles. Alternatively two nomination forms may be used.
- 8.5.5** Each competitor should complete a separate nomination form for each event or rifle class contested.
- 8.5.6** The Host shall provide each competitor with a score card having space to show the competitor's number, detail to which he/she is assigned or has drawn, bench number for each relay and sufficient room on the card for the competitor to keep a record of each group and aggregate.

- 8.5.7** A score book or sheet should be used by the host, ruled up to provide the following information, Competitor's name and number, detail number, bench numbers, scores for each group at each distance, aggregate at each distance, overall aggregate and placing in all aggregates.
- 8.6** For the proper conduct of a Registered Tournament the following officials and staff will be required and essential:--
- 8.6.1** One or both State Delegates in attendance who shall oversee the match or matches. Should a State Delegate not be able to attend, a proxy as defined in Section 8.2.3 may be appointed.
- 8.6.2** A Supervising Tournament Captain who shall be in command of all other staff, and shall with the help of assistants, attend to the collection of nomination fees, ensure that all competitors fill out their particulars and equipment details on their nomination forms, check the weight of rifles, scope specifications (where applicable) and that rifles and all shooting equipment comply with rifle specifications and events to be contested. On the completion of the event the Supervising Tournament Captain must supply a full copy of results to the National Benchrest Chairman.
- 8.6.3** A Range Officer with assistants to supervise safety, calling of competitors to the firing line, giving orders relative to the event, procedural commands (ideally by Public Address system and timed electronic audio devices), maintain order at the firing line, assist competitors in line with Section 10.8.
- 8.6.4** A Target Detail Captain with assistants to post and collect targets, check and collect backing strips and inspect stationary backing cards, and ensure that target frames, moving backing strips and stationary backing cards etc. operate satisfactorily and efficiently; and attend to changing moving backing strips and changing or patching out stationary backers.
- 8.6.5** An Official Scorer assisted by a check scorer and assistants to measure targets, calculate aggregates, placing etc.
- 8.7** Except as provided for in Section 4.8, a device shall be used to check telescopic sights in classes where magnification limitations form part of the class specifications. Such a device should be used before the match during weighing procedures and during the match when spot checks are undertaken. This device should not involve any implement or procedure that could damage or mark the competitor's equipment.
- 8.8** A scale will be required that will weigh the equipment for the class being competed, and checked to have an accuracy within the limits of 0.5 ounces (14 grams). These scales should be available at all times so that competitors may check the weight of their rifles and associated equipment. The scale will be required during the match should spot checks be undertaken. A known test weight should also be available for scale verification purposes.
- 8.8.1** Prior to the commencement of shooting in any class for which a rifle weight restriction applies, the rifles to be used by competitors shall, except as provided for in Section 4.9, be weighed for verification that the weight limitation rule has not been breached.

8.8.2 Similarly in any class for which a scope magnification limitation applies, the rifles to be used by the competitors shall, except as provided for in Section 4.9, be checked on the telescopic sight checking device for verification that the magnification limitation rule has not been breached.

8.8.3 Rifles, telescopic sights and rests should, except as provided for in Section 4.9, be subject to one spot check per relay on competitors at random by the Range Officer or their assistants, to ensure that they conform to the specifications pertaining to the particular class being fired. Any rifle, telescopic sight or rest being used that does not comply with the specifications constitutes grounds for disqualification of the competitor. If rifle, telescopic sights or rests are found not to comply, the competitor may lodge a protest and shoot under protest. If the competitor declines to lodge a protest, then after the relay has finished the Range Officer shall report the matter to the Supervising Tournament Captain who shall check the equipment in question, and if that equipment is found not to comply with the specifications, the competitor shall be disqualified from receiving any prizes or trophies and from being eligible for any awards, records or recognition pertaining to that event.

8.9 Bench rotation shall be compulsory at all Registered Tournaments.

8.9.1 On ranges constructed after 1/1/74, where it is mandatory that all benches be dual handed the following formula will apply for rotation:
if there are five (5) relays at each distance, then each competitor shall move to the right, one fifth of the number of benches used, calculated to the nearest whole number, after each relay.

8.9.2 On ranges constructed prior to 1/1/74 where all benches are not dual handed, rotation, as laid down in this Section 8.9.1, cannot be applied. In such cases the State, Branch or affiliated Association must submit a rotation formula to either the Benchrest Committee or Chairman for approval. Such formula in these circumstances should be designed in such a manner that competitors are afforded a rotation over the full spectrum of the benches being used in the Tournament irrespective of whether the competitor is right or left handed.

8.10 As soon as possible after the completion of firing in any class, the Range Officer or their staff shall post the scores on a notice board or other convenient place so that competitors may check their results.

8.11 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

8.11.1 The firing of Registered Tournaments under artificial lights is permitted, however records shot under artificial light shall be classed as separate to those shot in daylight hours.

8.11.2 If a Registered Tournament or Tournaments is/are part of a postal shoot, then all contending Associations or branches must be in agreement, that artificial lighting shall be allowed.

8.12 The Host shall send a match report to the National Benchrest Chairman, giving full results as well as noting any irregularities in the conduct of the event, protests, range equipment failures and anything beyond the control of the match organizers.

8.13 If delays occur that prevent a Tournament from being carried out according to the scheduled timetable, then if any part of an event is carried over to the next or another day, every effort possible should be made to ensure that each competitor shoots the same number of targets on each day.

8.14 In the event of some unforeseen situation or circumstance arising (e.g. act of providence) that could impede or prevent the continuance of an event or Tournament or part thereof, and for which no provision is made in these Rules; the Supervising Tournament Captain, after consultation with the relevant members of their staff and State Delegate or Delegates (or authorised proxy), has the authority to adopt any procedure deemed necessary to overcome the problem, or to cancel the event or Tournament, or part thereof, whichever the case may be.

SECTION 9: PROCEDURAL COMMANDS

The following commands and procedures shall be used at all Registered Tournaments:

9.1 For the first group at each distance of each class, when all competitors are set up, the Range Officer should announce if the target is a Warm Up or for record i.e. if the host is declining the option of a Warm Up target, however time limits for the first target of the distance remains unchanged as laid down in Section 6.7.

9.2 MATCH COMMANDS

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

- 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.

9.3 Any shots fired outside the allotted time period shall incur a penalty. Any competitor confirmed by the Range Officer/s or the Protest Committee as disobeying the time call rules will be disqualified from:

9.4.1 in the case of group shooting, receiving any award for that group or any aggregate which would include that group or,

9.4.2 in the case of Hunter Class, receiving any award for that score and for any aggregate score which would include that target.

If a circumstance should arise that requires **a temporary suspension of shooting**, the Range Officer should give the order "Hold your fire--clear your rifle by firing, or opening your bolt". Should an emergency arise during the shooting of a group that demands the immediate cessation of all shooting, the Range Officer shall give the order "Cease fire--emergency--unlock your bolt and stand clear of your rifle"; this will permit all rifles to be made safe without extracting any live ammunition that may have already been chambered.

- 9.5** Dislodged Target, Should a target become dislodged during a match the match will continue uninterrupted. At the completion of the match, the Range Officer will assess and award extra time to the competitor to enable the match to be completed prior to proceeding with further competition.
- 9.6** Any time lost by an interruption caused by either of the orders to cease fire in this Section is not to be charged against the time remaining to complete the course of fire, and the Range Officer should note the time lost by such interruption. Where an electronic timed audio device is in use when either command in this Section is given, the device should be stopped immediately and re-started when the "Commence Fire" order is given to complete the detail's relay.

SECTION 10: COMPETITORS

- 10.1** In accordance with the standard rules in Section 2, no competitor may enter more than once in any one class forming the whole or part of any Registered Tournament.
- 10.2** Competitors should familiarise themselves with record scores and procedures relating to the submitting of possible records, as defined in Sections 12 and 15.4, as it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure the branch and/or State delegate submits targets, backing strips and the prescribed form (duly filled in and signed) relating to a record to the Records Committee.
- 10.3** A competitor is liable to disqualification for using any aids that are forbidden in these Rules.
- 10.4** In all Registered Tournaments, in any class of competition, no competitor shall be allowed to occupy or shoot from any bench that is otherwise normally used for that particular competition, other than the benches to which he/she is assigned.
- 10.5** At all Registered Tournaments the only persons permitted to shoot on that section, or part, or the whole of the range, set aside for the conduct of a Tournament, when the Tournament is in progress, shall be these persons actually engaged in the Tournament.
- 10.6** A competitor may receive help and advice from any person in setting up and adjusting their equipment prior to the commencement of firing in a relay or detail, but all benches must be cleared of persons who are not actual competitors shooting in that relay, immediately prior to the Range Officer giving the order "Insert bolts. Commence Fire".

- 10.7** No coaching is to be permitted, and no person or persons, including other competitors in the same relay, shall be permitted to visit a bench with another competitor. A competitor may be alerted to a crossfire situation via the Range Officer this is not considered coaching
- 10.8** If a competitor experiences any difficulties with the range facilities, their own equipment or the placement of another competitor's rifle on the firing line, they may approach the Range Officer or a member of the Range staff for assistance, who shall be obliged to assist where possible.
- 10.9** As Benchrest encourages and facilitates hand loading of ammunition it is the responsibility of every competitor to ensure that all safe practices and codes outlined for such procedures are diligently observed.
- 10.10** Any competitor who nominates or otherwise changes to a rifle of a different calibre must notify the Range Officer, who will advise the Scorer, immediately after the first target where the different calibre is used. Failure to notify could render the competitor liable to disqualification.
- 10.11** Competitors should ascertain if the first target at each distance of each class to be contested is a Warm Up or for record. Although the Range Officer should make such an announcement the onus is on the competitor to be fully aware of the status of the target.
- 10.12** The onus to complete firing within time limits as laid down in Section 6.7 is entirely the responsibility of the competitor, however the host should implement all procedures to assist in this matter.

SECTION 11: TARGET SPECIFICATIONS

The Official SSAA Benchrest targets shall be used for all Registered Tournaments in the Experimental/Unlimited, Heavy Benchrest, Light Benchrest, Sporter Benchrest, .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and Heavy .22LR Rimfire classes.

Specifications will be as follows:

- 11.1** All Official Benchrest targets shall be a single target card comprising a "Record Target" and a "Sighter Target". A line shall be printed horizontally across the entire width of the target card and midway between the top and bottom edges of the card. The Record Target shall be that part of the target card above the line and the Sighter Target shall be that part of the target card below and including the line.
- 11.2** On both the Record Target and the Sighter Target there shall be printed: five concentric rings, an aiming mark and a border surrounding the rings and aiming mark. Except for the rings and aiming mark, there shall be no other marks or printing within the border of the Record Target. The Sighter Target shall have two additional concentric rings in each lower corner of the border and the letter "S" in one other corner of the border with the remaining corner being reserved for target numbering.

11.3 In the case of the 100 yard targets:

11.3.1 The rings shall be a ten ring of 0.500 inches (127mm) outside diameter with a ring thickness of 0.040 inches (1.02mm) ; a nine ring of 1.000 inches (25.4mm) outside diameter with a ring thickness of 0.020 inches (.51mm) and succeeding rings with thicknesses of 0.020 inches (.51mm), increasing by 0.500 inches (12.70mm) in outside diameter to, and including, the six ring.

11.3.2 The aiming mark shall be 1.000 inches (25.4) square and placed at 12 o'clock, tangent to the eight ring, and shall have sides 0.250 inches (6.35mm)thick, leaving within the sides, an unfilled square of 0.500 inches (12.70mm) for the actual mark at which to aim.

11.3.3 The additional rings on the Sighter Target shall be a ten ring and a nine ring as defined in this Section 11.3.1.

11.3.4 The border shall be a rectangle measuring 3.50 inches (88.90mm) horizontally by 4.75 inches (120.65mm) vertically and shall be formed by border lines 0.040 inches (1.02mm) thick.

11.3.5 The target card shall measure 8 inches (203.2mm) by 16 inches and the line separating the Record Target from the Sighter Target shall be 0.040 inches (1.02mm) thick.

11.4 In the case of targets for other distances, except as provided for in Rule 6.6, the dimensions of the rings, aiming mark and separating line shall be increased or decreased in direct proportion to the distance fired at.

11.4.1 For 200 yards, the target card shall be 8 inches (203.2m) by 16 inches (406.4mm) and the line separating the Record Target from the Sighter Target shall be 0.080 inches (2.04mm) thick.

11.4.2 For 200 yards, the border shall be a square of 7 inches (177.8mm) formed by border lines 0.080 inches (2.04mm) thick.

11.4.3 For 300 yards, the target card shall be 12 inches (304.8mm) by 24 inches (609.6mm) and the line separating the Record Target from the Sighter Target shall be 0.120 inches (3.05mm) thick.

11.4.4 For 300 yards, the border shall be a square of 10.5 inches (266.70mm) formed by border lines 0.120 inches (3.05mm) thick.

11.5 The printing on any Official Benchrest Target may be in Black or Pantone Warm Red ink, however it is recommended that all targets used for a National Championships be in Black.

11.6 All targets to be used in registered tournaments are to be purchased from an approved SSAA target supplier.

11.7 Specifications of all targets shall be contained in a set of full-scale drawings held by the Chairman or such other person(s) approved by the Committee. Diagrams of each target will be found in Section 21. The diagrams therein are not necessarily to scale and are for the purposes of illustration only.

SECTION 12: SCORING OF TARGETS & PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH TARGETS

12.1 Groups are to be measured from the centre to centre of the two shots widest apart on the Record Target which constitute the group as defined in this Section 12.7, regardless of how many shots that may be. Groups shall be measured with a reticule rule designed for measuring small groups to one thousandths of an inch. In measuring groups fired with calibres other than that of the reticule size, a measurement should be taken, using the existing reticule, from the extreme outside edges of the two widest bullet holes and the actual difference between the diameter of a bullet hole of the calibre used, and the diameter of the reticule, shall be subtracted, in the case that the calibre is larger than the reticule, from the measurement read on the reticule rule scale. If the calibre is smaller than the reticule, then the difference should be added. The result is the group's size. This method is an approximation and does not mean that persons experienced in measuring targets should abandon any other method they have devised that is at least as quick and at least equally accurate.

12.2 TARGET DETAIL

12.2.1 After the conclusion of a relay, the target detail shall inspect the targets and on those Record Targets on which the required number of bullet holes cannot be distinctly counted, they shall inspect the moving backing strip and count the bullet holes on it. If the moving backing strip shows that the correct number of bullet holes have passed through the Record Target, they shall mark the target as being correct, or attach the appropriate moving backing strip to the target, according to whichever method the Official Scorer shall request, as being the most suitable to enable him/her to determine the validity of the targets.

12.2.2 If there are less than the required number of bullet holes on the moving backing strip, then in all cases the moving backing strip should be attached to its target, so that the Official Scorer may be able to determine whether the target is valid or not.

12.2.3 Targets that may be eligible for records, either in the natural (daylight) light or artificial light category, must have the appropriate moving backing strip attached to them, and shall be kept for a period of six months after the conclusion of the Registered Tournament. This also applies to all targets in a record aggregate. Targets without their particular moving backing strips cannot be submitted for record purposes, unless all the required number of shots are clearly visible on the Record Target or in the case of an aggregate, on all the Record Targets.

12.2.4 The moving backing strips should be marked, or some means adopted to make it possible to identify each moving backing strip with its appropriate target in case the correct moving backing strip is required to be inspected by the Appeals Committee, or for any other purposes such as records etc.

12.2.5 In the event of a moving backing strip stopping, or not starting, or not being switched on, or not functioning properly, during the Tournament, then this shall become an automatic protest. The members of the Appeals Committee are to investigate the matter, and to allow or disallow the targets concerned at their discretion, and in accordance with the evidence available to them. Targets without

moving backing strips that do not reveal all the shots required to be fired have passed through the Record Target cannot be allowed for record purposes.

12.2.6 If a target, or targets should be lost before it, or they have been measured, then this shall become an automatic protest. The Appeals Committee shall investigate the matter, and decide if an average of the balance of the competitor or competitors, targets for that distance should be allotted as the group size for the lost target, or targets. Depending upon the circumstances in which the target, or targets were lost, or are missing, and upon factual and reliable evidence available, the Protest, Disputes and Appeals Committee may allot a group size either smaller, or larger, than the average of the balance of targets. Notwithstanding the above, any such allotted group size will not constitute a record, for either that group or any aggregate that includes that group.

12.3 When the targets have been brought back from the firing line they shall be checked for discrepancies and irregularities and then measured; after which (BUT ON NO ACCOUNT BEFOREHAND) they shall be displayed at a point behind the firing line, termed "**The Wailing Wall**", so that the competitors may inspect them. No handling of the targets by any persons other than the Official scoring staff, or the target detail, is to be allowed while they are on display. After a reasonable time for inspection has elapsed the scoring staff shall collect the targets and any moving backing strips for safe keeping. With the exception of targets and their associated backing strips which may constitute one or more records, or are the subject of any Protest or Appeal, after the completion of the Tournament, any competitor may take possession of their own targets.

12.4 Whenever possible all targets for a Registered Tournament shall be measured by the one person, and another person (but not necessarily the same one) shall check the measurements of the Official Scorer with a vernier calliper so that obvious errors will be avoided. Any targets found incorrectly measured shall be returned to the Official Scorer, who shall re-measure and if necessary re-mark.

12.5 The target detail, when collecting the targets and checking the backing strips, should note if there is an extra bullet hole or holes wide of the group on any Record Targets, and if so they shall check if the extra bullet hole or holes on the Record Target and the stationary backing card line up with the correct bench or with another bench by looking through them, and then write their findings on the stationary backing card. In all cases of suspected cross-fires they shall attach the stationary backing card, and moving backing strip to the appropriate target. The Official Scorer shall check by placing the Record Target over the stationary backing card, and after lining up the holes forming the group, see if the extra hole or holes coincide on both the Record Target, the stationary backing card and moving backing strip or card. The Official Scorer shall then decide if any cross-fires have been fired on the Record Target, or if the extra shot or shots have been fired by the competitor themselves.

12.6 SHOTS ON RECORD TARGET

12.6.1 A competitor may fire as many sighting shots as he/she wishes, or fire none at all, but except as provided for in this Section 12.6.2, all Record Target bullet holes must touch or be contained within, the borders of the Record Target, otherwise penalties as laid out in this Section 12.8 will apply. On the Warm Up target card (when posted) a competitor may fire on the Sighter Target only, or use both Sighter

and Record Targets on it for sighting purposes, or not fire on the Warm Up target card at all. However, the Warm Up target card must conform to the requirements of Section 11, if the competitor wishes to claim a record group shot on the Warm Up target.

- 12.6.2** If a competitor's first shot on their target is on the Record Target of that competitor and the competitor wishes to have this shot disregarded, then the competitor shall report this shot at once to the Range Officer before firing another shot. The Range Officer shall confirm that no other shots have been fired by the competitor on the target card, and shall inform the Official Scorer so that the target is not penalized and the first shot not scored. All subsequent shots on the Record Target will be subject to the procedures as laid down in Section 12.7.
- 12.6.3** A Record group must be fired on the Record Target only. Under no circumstance is a group fired on the sighter target to be counted or scored, for record or any other purposes, or to be included in an aggregate. Similarly no group fired on a Warm Up Record Target is to be included in an aggregate.
- 12.7** All shots on the Record Target including any transferred crossfires, as described in Section 13.1, but not including the first shot, which has been reported to and confirmed by the Range Officer as allowed in Section 12.6.2, nor any identified crossfires from another competitor, shall be regarded as Record shots. Only those shots inside or touching the border shall be measured for group size.
- 12.8** Any Record shot that is not contained within or does not touch the border will for each such shot incur a penalty of one minute of angle added to the group measurement.
- 12.9** For the purpose of these rules, a shot touching or breaking the centre line of the target card is to be regarded as a sighting shot: a shot touching or breaking the border line of the Record Target is to be regarded as within such border and not subject to the penalty provisions of this Section 12.8: a shot on or touching any part of the target card which forms part of the Record Target but does not touch or break the centre line is to be regarded as a shot on the Record Target.
- 12.10** If the number of Record shots is less than the required number of shots then a penalty of one minute of angle for each missing shot shall be added to the group measurement.
- 12.11** If the number of Record shots is more than the required number of shots then, unless subject to Section 12.8 or Section 13.2, no penalty shall be applied.

SECTION 13: CROSS-FIRES

- 13.1** If a competitor realizes that he/she has cross-fired on another competitor's Record Target he/she shall report it at once to the Range Officer, and shall then fire the balance of their shots on their own Record Target; if a competitor cross-fires and does not report doing so, and this competitor has not fired more than the required number of shots, including those shots fired on someone else's Record Target, and the cross-fired shot(s) can be identified and attributed to him/her by a stationary backing card, or by any other means, including their own admission of having cross-fired unintentionally, then in either case, the competitor shall not be

disqualified, but their own cross-fired shot, or shots shall be transposed to their own Record Target, and these shots shall then be eliminated from the other competitor's Record Target on which they were actually fired. The competitor responsible for cross-fires of this kind shall have their Record Target measured, so that the group includes the transposed cross-fired shot or shots, and a penalty of one minute of angle shall be added to the actual measurement (which shall include any penalty incurred for any shots described in Section 12.8) of their group, per shot cross-fired.

- 13.2** When a crossfire has been determined by the match officials which was not declared by a competitor an automatic protest will be initiated. Match officials will determine the source of the crossfire shot(s) and identify the bench location (as provided for in Section 2.7). If a competitor has fired in total, more shots on their own target and the crossfired target than allowed then a penalty shall apply. The penalty applied in this rule to the crossfiring competitor for an undeclared crossfire shall be that no score or group size will be recorded for the relay.
- 13.3** Any competitor, who notices that another competitor has cross-fired on their Record Target, shall report the cross-fired shot(s) to the Range Officer immediately he/she becomes aware of it.
- 13.4** Any competitor or competitors who have lost time reporting cross-fires, or other unforeseen circumstances (excluding rifle malfunction), shall have extra time allowed to complete firing their group, the amount of time allowed shall be equal to the time lost and the Range Officer should note the length of time lost by a competitor or competitors under these circumstances.

SECTION 14: SCORING OF AGGREGATES

14.1 SINGLE DISTANCE AGGREGATES

- 14.1.1** Aggregates shall be comprised of the 50 metre aggregate, 100 yard aggregate, 200 yard aggregate and 300 yard aggregate. In dual range Tournaments there will also be the overall aggregate for the class and when there is more than one class in the Tournament, the grand aggregate for all classes fired in the Tournament. Although individual group measurements will only be taken to .001 inch as read directly from the reticule or vernier calliper, all aggregates shall be mathematically calculated to .0001 inch.
- 14.1.2** The 50 metre aggregate for a competitor shall consist of their five group measurements fired at 50 metres added together, the sum doubled and then divided by five (5) then calculated to four decimal places (unless subject to Section 14.2) and expressed in minute of angle (M.O.A.).
- 14.1.3** The 100 yard aggregate for a competitor shall consist of their five group measurements fired at 100 yards, added together, the sum divided by five (5), then calculated to four decimal places (unless subject to Section 14.2) and expressed in M.O.A.
- 14.1.4** The 200 yard aggregate for a competitor shall consist of their five group measurements fired at 200 yards, added together, the sum divided by ten (10) then

calculated to four decimal places (unless subject to Section 14.2) and expressed in M.O.A.

14.1.5 The 300 yard aggregate for a competitor shall consist of their five group measurements fired at 300 yards, added together, the sum divided by fifteen (15) then calculated to four decimal places (unless subject to Section 14.2) and expressed in M.O.A.

14.2 DUAL DISTANCE AGGREGATES

In dual distance Registered Tournaments, dependent upon the course of fire chosen and registered on behalf of the host Association or branch, the overall aggregate for a competitor in any particular class shall be computed by: --

14.2.1 adding the 50 metre and 100 yard aggregates expressed in M.O.A. and dividing the sum by two (2), the result will also be expressed in M.O.A. (unless subject to Section 14.3).

14.2.2 adding the 100 yard and 200 yard aggregates expressed in M.O.A. and dividing the sum by two (2), the result will also be expressed in M.O.A. (unless subject to Section 14.3).

14.2.3 adding the 200 yard and 300 yard aggregates expressed in M.O.A. and dividing the sum by two (2), the result will also be expressed in M.O.A. (unless subject to Section 14.3).

14.3 The grand aggregate for a competitor in a multi-class aggregate, shall be the sum of the overall aggregate in each class, expressed in M.O.A., that is included in the Grand Aggregate conducted during the whole of the Tournament, and divided by the number of classes included in the grand aggregate; the result will also be expressed in M.O.A. (unless subject to Section 14.4).

14.4 To be eligible for an aggregate, a competitor must satisfactorily complete every Record Target included in that aggregate. Ineligibility in one or more aggregates shall preclude a competitor from a class or Tournament grand aggregate, but not for any other aggregate in which the competitor satisfactorily completes all Record Targets in that particular distance or class aggregate.

SECTION 15: BREAKING OF TIED SCORES

15.1 For the breaking of tied scores, if two or more competitors have groups of identical size in the firing of any one of the first, second, third, fourth or fifth groups at any one distance, their relative position on the score sheet for the firing of that particular group shall be decided by their relative position in the total aggregate for that particular distance i.e. a competitor with a better aggregate score shall be placed ahead of a competitor with a worse aggregate score.

15.2 If in an aggregate fired over one distance, two or more competitors are tied with aggregate measurements of identical size, then their aggregates should be calculated to as many decimal places as needed to break the tie. If ties are still unbroken then the competitor who has fired the smallest group shall be placed ahead of the other competitor, or competitors.

- 15.3** If in an aggregate fired over two distances, two or more competitors are tied with aggregates of identical size, then their aggregates should be calculated to as many decimal places as needed to break the tie. If ties are still unbroken then the average of the smallest group at each distance fired by the tied competitors will be taken with the smallest average to be given the higher placing.
- 15.4** For tied scores in a grand aggregate fired over two or more classes, the tied aggregates shall be taken to as many decimal places as needed to break the tie. If ties are still unbroken then the average of the smallest groups fired by the tied competitors at each distance in each class will be taken with the smallest average being placed the highest.

SECTION 16: GROUP, SCORE AND AGGREGATE RECORDS

- 16.1** There will be two categories for all records; those shot under artificial light will be classed and recognised as separate from those records shot under natural daylight conditions i.e. sun up to sunset. All records irrespective of category must comply in every way in accordance with these Rules.
- 16.2** The Records Committee shall comprise a Chairman, who shall be the Official National Scoring Officer, and two other persons selected by and approved by the Benchrest Subcommittee, shall be entrusted with the task of measuring and keeping the SSAA Inc National Benchrest Records.
- 16.3** There shall be a record for the smallest group measurement at 50 metres (.22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes only), 100 yards, 200 yards and 300 yards and any other distances that may from time to time be ordered or agreed upon for each recognised Benchrest class. A group shot on the Warm Up Record Target shall be allowed for individual group records, but cannot be included in an aggregate record; it must comply in all ways with the requirements of other Record Targets.
- 16.4** There shall be aggregate records for the full course of five (5) groups at 50 metres (.22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes only), 100 yards, 200 yards and 300 yards, and any other distances as in this Section 0. Also an overall class aggregate record comprised of 50 metres aggregate plus the 100 yard aggregate in .22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest, 100 yards aggregate plus 200 yards aggregate, 200 yards aggregate plus 300 yards aggregate for each class, and any other distance as in this Section 0 and a grand Tournament aggregate comprised of the overall aggregates of the Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest, Heavy Benchrest and Experimental/Unlimited Benchrest classes.
- 16.5** If, at any Registered Tournament, the organizers, State delegate, or a competitor believes any group, or aggregate of groups fired could constitute a record, the Host, in co-operation with the State Delegates, should send the target or targets (all Record Targets shot in an aggregate are necessary for aggregate records) to the Official National Scoring Officer with the appropriate moving backing strip or strips, where required to determine if the correct number of shots have been fired, plus the prescribed form.

16.5.1 Prescribed forms are available from the National Benchrest Chairman and must be completed in full, duly signed by State Delegate or Delegates in attendance and accompany the targets and backing strips. In the event of a proxy delegate being in attendance this person should sign the form and attach thereto, a copy of the written proxy authorisation as laid down in Section 8.2.3.

16.5.2 The three members of the Records Committee shall each separately measure any Record Target, or Record Targets submitted for records. The three (3) separate measurements for each Record Target submitted shall be added together and the sum divided by three (3), and calculated to four (4) decimal places. This average measurement will then be deemed to be the official group size of the Record Target or Record Targets under scrutiny for record purposes.

16.5.3 For all records, the measurement or measurements, plus the details the Chairman in his Register of records shall enter i.e. the competitor's name, date shot and location of the range. The Chairman shall also keep and preserve the Record Target or Record Targets.

SECTION 17: HUNTER CLASS

17.1 All rifles must have a safe trigger system that is released by a finger of either hand and have a trigger guard. There will be four classes of rifle for Hunter class, specifications are as follows:--

17.1.1 LIGHT CENTREFIRE HUNTER CLASS

This shall be any rifle having a barrel not less than 18 inches long (457.2 mm), measured from the bolt face to the muzzle, and a safe manually operated firing mechanism, that does not include the use of pressure fluid, gas or remote control. The use of an electric trigger is permitted, however all accessories associated with such trigger, such as batteries must be integrated as part of the rifle and included in the total rifle weight. The width of the stock is not to exceed 3 inches (76.2 mm) at any point. Telescopic sights shall be restricted to six (6) magnifications (variable magnification telescopic sights should be set at 6 magnifications or less and taped). It must have a magazine that will hold two or more loaded rounds of ammunition. The total weight of rifle and telescopic sight, including all accessories such as mirage shades, batteries for electric triggers etc. is not to exceed 10 pounds (4.536 kg). The rifle must be fired from restricted rests only as defined in Section 5.2.

17.1.2 HEAVY CENTREFIRE HUNTER CLASS

This shall be any centrefire rifle that does not have a total weight in excess of 14 pounds (6.350 kg) including telescopic sights and all accessories, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

17.1.3 LIGHT RIMFIRE HUNTER CLASS

This shall be any Rimfire rifle, chambered for the .22 calibre long rifle Rimfire cartridge only, that does not have a total weight in excess of 7 pounds 12 ounces (3.515 kg), nor a stock whose width exceeds 2.25 inches (57.15 mm) at any point, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Light Centrefire Hunter class rifle (Section 17.1.1) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

17.1.4 HEAVY RIMFIRE HUNTER CLASS

This shall be any Rimfire rifle, chambered for the .22 calibre long rifle Rimfire cartridge only, that does not have a total weight in excess of 14 pounds (6.350 kg) including telescopic sight and all accessories, but otherwise meets the specifications of the Heavy Benchrest Rifle (Section 4.3) and shall be fired from restricted rests only.

17.2 COURSE OF FIRE AND TIME LIMITS

17.2.1 The course of fire for Hunter class Registered matches may consist of either a single distance match or dual distance matches as defined in this Section 17.2.3, 17.2.4, 17.2.5 and 17.2.6. When a dual distance course of fire is undertaken matches may be broken in time, however the second distance match must be completed within 48 hours of the first to be eligible for class record.

17.2.2 In both classes the provision of a Warm Up target is optional to the host Association or branch as well as the competitor (when same is posted). Where the Host opts not to post a Warm Up target it is recommended that competitors be advised in terms of Section 6.2.

17.2.3 In single distance Tournaments for Light Centrefire and Heavy Centrefire Hunter Class the course of fire shall be five (5), five shot targets (one shot at each record bull) plus an optional Warm Up target at either 100 yards or 200 yards.

17.2.4 In single distance Tournaments for .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class the course of fire shall be five (5), five shot targets (one shot at each record bull) plus an optional Warm Up target at either 50 metres or 100 yards.

17.2.5 In dual distance Tournaments for Light Centrefire Hunter and Heavy Centrefire Hunter Class the course of fire shall be five targets of five shots (one shot at each record bull) plus an optional Warm Up target at 100 yards and 200 yards.

17.2.6 In dual distance Tournaments for .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class the course of fire shall be five targets of five shots (one shot at each record bull) plus an optional Warm Up target at 50 metres and 100 yards.

17.2.7 In the .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class the targets to be used are the 100 yard Hunter Class target at 50 metres and the 200 yard target at 100 yards as defined in this Section 17.4.

17.2.8 Time limits will be identical to those laid out in Section 6.7, and the word "target" should be substituted for the word "group" in all cases.

17.3 RANGE REQUIREMENTS

17.3.1 These shall be identical to the requirements defined in Section 7 except that moving backing strips are not required, however stationary backing cards and black backing material (directly behind the target) are mandatory.

17.4 TARGET SPECIFICATIONS

- 17.4.1** The Official SSAA 100 yard Hunter Class Benchrest target for all Registered Tournaments shall be a score target with six "bulls" on it. One of the bulls shall be a sighter, and shall be enclosed within an area bounded by two red border lines and two target card edges. The border lines shall be 0.040 inches (1.02mm) thick. There shall be a hatched triangular mark in each upper corner of the sighter area.
- 17.4.2** Each bull shall consist of five concentric scoring rings starting with a 10 ring of 0.500 inches (12.70mm) outside diameter and increasing in diameter by 0.500 inches (12.70mm) and decreasing in value by 1 per scoring ring and finishing with a 6 ring of 2.500 inches (63.50mm) outside diameter. There shall also be an X ring, being a filled circle, concentric with the scoring rings and having a diameter of 0.0625 inches (1.58mm).
- 17.4.3** Each scoring ring shall be 0.020 inches (.51mm) thick and the X, 10, 9 and 6 rings shall be red. The 7 and 8 rings shall be the same colour as the target card. The areas between the 6 and 7 rings and between the 7 and 8 rings shall be red.
- 17.4.4** The value of the scoring rings shall not be printed on any bull on the target card except for the sighting bull.
- 17.4.5** The two hundred yard targets, and targets used for other distances shall be increased or decreased, in direct proportion to the distance fired at, with respect to their aiming marks, scoring rings and border lines unless specified otherwise in this Section 17.2.7.
- 17.4.6** Any change to the specification of any target shall not immediately invalidate the existing target. The existing target shall have equal validity with the new target for a period of one calendar year, or such other period agreed upon by the Benchrest Subcommittee, after the new specification comes into force

17.5 SCORING PROCEDURES

- 17.5.1** Centrefire and Heavy Centrefire Hunter rifle targets shall be scored by gauging each scoring shot on that target with a gauge, appropriate for the calibre used on that target. If the gauged shot touches or covers any part of a scoring ring or is within a scoring ring but not touching or covering any part of a higher valued scoring ring then, subject to any penalties which may apply, that shot shall be awarded the value of that scoring ring. The shot must only be plugged with the gauge once.
- 17.5.2** .22LR Light Rimfire Hunter and .22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter rifle targets shall be scored in the same manner as the Centrefire Hunter targets except that the scoring gauge will be a .22 ISSF/USAS Inward gauge (5.6-5.65mm or 0.2205-0.2225")
- 17.5.3** If the first sighting shot at each target is outside of or not touching the border line surrounding the sighter bull, the competitor shall report this at once to the range officer before firing another shot. The range officer shall confirm that no other shots have been fired on the target and shall then inform the Official scorer so that the target shall not be penalised and the first shot not scored

17.5.4 Only one shot shall be fired on each of the 5 record bulls. If more than one shot is placed on a record bull the lowest shot is scored and a penalty of 1 point will be incurred for the extra shot on that bull. If there are no shots on a record bull then that bull scores 0 (zero).

17.5.5 Any shots outside the record bulls are scored as 0 (zero). Only the 5 lowest scoring shots on the target will be counted. Any extra shots incur a 1 point penalty per shot.

NOTE: Please apply these rules in the order as listed. For example if there are 8 shots in the scoring area of the target. Apply 17.5.4 first, then 17.5.5 followed by 17.5.6

17.6 CROSS-FIRES

17.6.1 Whenever a cross-fire occurs and it can be established who the offender is, via stationary backing cards or the competitor's own admission, the identifiable cross-fired shot shall be transposed to the offender's target; if the cross-fired shot cannot be identified from the legitimate shot then the lowest valued shot on the receiver's target shall be transposed to the offender's target; in either case a penalty of two (2) points for each cross-fired shot shall be deducted from the offender's score. All other procedures for cross-fires as defined in Section 13 shall apply. If, after the transposition to the offender's target of all cross-fired shots found to have been fired by that offender, more than the required number of shots per bull is the result the offender's target will be scored in accordance with Section 17.5.3 then 17.5.4, 17.5.5, and 17.5.6.

17.6.2 No competitor shall intentionally cross-fire on another competitor's target. Any competitor found to have done so will be liable to a maximum penalty of disqualification from participation in any event, in any Registered Tournament subsequent to the alleged offence.

17.7 SCORING OF AGGREGATES OF HUNTER CLASS TARGETS

17.7.1 Distance aggregate scores shall comprise the 50 metre total, 100 yard total or 200 yard total i.e. a maximum of 50 points plus 5 X ring scores on each target, a total of 250 points plus 25 X ring scores. In dual range tournaments there will also be the overall total for the class i.e. a maximum of 500 points plus 50 X ring scores.

17.7.2 To be eligible for a distance or class aggregate the provisions of Section 14 will apply.

17.8 BREAKING OF TIED SCORES

17.8.1 Tied scores in Hunter Rifle class Tournaments shall be broken by the competitor having the highest total number of X ring scores in that class, being placed ahead of the other competitor or competitors in the tie; if still tied then by the greatest number of tens, then nines, then eights, then sevens, then sixes. If a tie cannot be broken in this manner, then the following will apply.

17.8.2 In the case of a single distance (i.e. 5 targets) a tie will be broken by reverting to the first record match of that distance and progressing from the first record bull until a miss and out situation eliminates one of the shooters.

17.8.3 In the case of a dual distance (i.e. 10 targets) a tie will be broken by reverting to the first record match at 100 yards, or in the case of Rimfire 50metres, and progressing as previous Rule 17.8.2.

17.8.4 To determine a match winner, ties will be broken by reverting to the first record bull of that match and progressing to each succeeding bull until a miss and out eliminates one of the shooters, then use the total aggregate score for tie breakers to determine match winners who have identical scores.

17.8.5 In the case of a 2 Gun (i.e. 20 targets) the methods above in 17.8.3 shall be used and applied to each class.

17.8.6 For the purpose of breaking tied scores the official sequence in reading a Hunter class target will be starting with the bull to the left of the sighter and working clockwise to the bull above the sighter.

17.9 DISTANCE RECORDS

17.9.1 There shall be records for the **best score** at 50 metres in Light Rimfire Benchrest Hunter and Heavy Rimfire Hunter, best score at 100 yards in Light Rimfire Benchrest Hunter, Heavy Rimfire Hunter, Light Centrefire Hunter and Heavy Centrefire Hunter and best score at 200 yards in Light Centrefire Hunter and Heavy Centrefire Hunter i.e. the sum of the five targets.

17.9.2 **There shall be records for the overall class** combined scores of targets shot at 50 metres and 100 yards in Light Rimfire Benchrest Hunter and Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class and combined scores of targets shot at 100 yards and 200 yards in Light Centrefire Hunter and Heavy Centrefire Hunter Class i.e. the sum of the ten targets.

17.9.3 **There shall be records for Two-Gun Light Hunter Class**, which shall comprise the total of all scores in Light Rimfire Hunter Class and Light Centrefire Hunter Class.

17.9.4 There shall be records for **Two-Gun Heavy Hunter Class**, which shall comprise the total of all scores in Heavy Rimfire Hunter Class and Heavy Centrefire Hunter Class

All other requirements laid down in Section 15.4 will apply when submitting targets for record purposes with the exception of lodgement of moving backing strips, which are not used in Hunter Class matches.

SECTION 18: MEDALS AND AWARDS

18.1 NATIONAL BENCHREST CHAMPIONSHIPS

18.1.1 National medals shall be ordered from the National Benchrest Chairman by the Host state and awarded (where contested) in accordance with the following table:

NATIONAL BENCHREST CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS							
CLASS		Small Medal			Large Medal		
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
<u>RIMFIRE Group</u> Light Heavy	50Agg	2	2	2			
	100Agg	2	2	2			
	Grand				2	2	2
	2 Gun				1	1	1
	50m Grp	2					
	100m Grp	2					
	<i>total</i>	8	4	4	3	3	3
<u>CENTREFIRE Group</u> Sporter Light BR Heavy BR EXP/Unl	100 Grp	4					
	100Agg	4	4	4			
	200 Grp	4					
	200Agg	4	4	4			
	Grand				4	4	4
	2 Gun				1	1	1
	3 Gun				1	1	1
	4 Gun				1	1	1
	<i>total</i>	16	8	8	7	7	7
<u>IRB (Score)</u> High Score Day 1 High Score Day 2	Two day six target match - Overall Score				1	1	1
		1	1	1			
		1	1	1			
		<i>total</i>	2	2	2	1	1
<u>RIMFIRE Hunter</u> Light & Heavy RF Hunter Light & Heavy RF Hunter Light & Heavy RF Hunter	50 Score	2	2	2			
	100 Score	2	2	2			
	Grand	2			2	2	2
	2 Gun	1			1	1	1
		<i>total</i>	4	4	4	3	3
<u>CENTREFIRE Hunter</u> Light and Heavy CFH <u>HUNTER</u> Light Heavy	100 Score	2	2	2			
	200 Score	2	2	2			
	Grand L&H				2	2	2
	2 Gun				1	1	1
	2 gun L CF&RF				1	1	1
	2 gun H CF&RF				1	1	1
	4 Gun				1	1	1
		<i>total</i>	4	4	4	6	6
<u>FLY championship</u> Light & Heavy CF CF&RF	Light Gun		Total Score		1	1	1
	Heavy Gun		Total Score		1	1	1
	Rimfire		Total Score		1	1	1
	2 GUN				1	1	1
	2 GUN				1	1	1
	High Score	3					

	Small Group	3					
Junior Champ -Under 15 Years	RF*	1					
	RF*	1					
Junior Champ - Over 15 and under 18 Years							
Junior Champ – Under 15 Years	CF*	1					
	CF*	1					
Junior Champ – Over 15 and Under 18 Years							
	<i>total</i>	<i>10</i>			<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>

* Junior Awards are to be Perpetuals trophies (except FLY) when contested.

18.1.2 Top Ten Patches shall be obtained by each State hosting the National Benchrest Championships and these patches shall be awarded.

18.1.3 A competitor's patch shall be supplied to all persons who are awarded a Top Ten Patch, on the basis of the formula in Section 18.1.1, at the National Benchrest Championships and other competitors shall be permitted to purchase the competitor's patch if they so desire. A competitor winning more than one Top Ten strip shall only be eligible for one competitor's patch.

18.1.4 The winner of the **200 yard Aggregate in Heavy Benchrest** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "H.I. Madden Memorial Trophy" and a smaller, keeper trophy by the discipline.

18.1.5 The winner of the **4 Gun Aggregate** at the National Benchrest Championships shall be the recipient of the "Chas. Brown Trophy".

18.1.6 The winner of the **Grand Aggregate in Experimental/Unlimited** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "Ron Marsden Trophy".

18.1.7 The winner of the **Grand Aggregate in Sporter Benchrest Rifle** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "Den-Lo Park Trophy".

18.1.8 The winner of the **200 yard aggregate in Sporter Benchrest Rifle** at the National Benchrest Championship shall receive the "A.D.Peake memorial trophy".

18.1.9 The winner of the **2 Gun Aggregate in Light Benchrest and Heavy Benchrest** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "John Dark Trophy".

18.1.10 The winner of the **3 Gun Aggregate in Sporter Benchrest, Light Benchrest and Heavy Benchrest** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "Max Coady Trophy".

18.1.1 The winner of the **Grand Aggregate in Heavy Rimfire Benchrest** at the National Benchrest Championships shall receive the "Steve Brown Trophy".

18.1.1 The winner of the 4 Gun Hunter at the National Championships shall be the awarded the “Nick Catlan trophy”.

18.1.13 The top Junior Shooter (as per the rules at time of competition) in Rimfire 2 Gun Hunter shall be awarded the perpetual “David Kerr” trophy.

18.1.14 The 4 competitors from each State or Territory, who shot the smallest Grand Aggregates in either the **.22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest or .22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes**, shall constitute that **State's or Territory's Team** at the National Benchrest Championships. Competitors who nominate for both Rimfire classes are eligible once only for the State or Territory's Team. The winning team shall receive the "Progress Equipment Trophy".

18.1.15 A register shall be established of perpetual trophies awarded at National events and maintained by the National Awards Secretary. The register shall be reviewed annually at the annual general meeting of the Discipline.

18.2 HALL OF FAME

18.2.1 A Hall of Fame Award shall be conducted on a point score basis in the Sporter Benchrest class, Light Benchrest class, Heavy Benchrest class, Experimental / Unlimited class and the 4 Gun Aggregate at the National Benchrest Championships.

For points to apply the minimum entry numbers in each class and 4 Gun will be:-

Sporter Benchrest Class	minimum of	25 competitors
Light Benchrest Class	minimum of	35 competitors
Heavy Benchrest Class	minimum of	35 competitors
Experimental /Unlimited Class	minimum of	20 competitors
4 Gun Aggregate	minimum of	115 competitors

in the four classes applicable and this entry number can be achieved by any combination of class entry numbers.

Points will be allocated as follows

only after the above-mentioned provisions and parameters are met:

Distance Aggregate win in any of the 4 classes - 1 point.

Class Grand Aggregate win in any of the 4 classes - 2 points.

1st, 2nd and 3rd in 4 Gun Aggregate - 3, 2 & 1 point respectively

The maximum number of points able to be awarded at any one National Benchrest Championship is 22. A competitor must amass a total of 10 points for entry into the Hall of Fame

18.2.2 A Hall of Fame Award shall be conducted on a point score basis at the National Benchrest Championships in Light Rimfire Hunter, Heavy Rimfire Hunter, Light Centrefire Hunter Heavy Centrefire Hunter Classes and 4 Gun Hunter Class. For points to apply the minimum competitor number per class will be 20 competitors and in the four classes 80 competitors and the 4 gun entry number can be achieved by any combination of the individual class entry numbers.

Points will be allocated only after the above criteria are met:

Distance score win in any of the 4 classes	1 point
Class Grand Score win in any of 4 classes	2 points
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Place in 4 Gun Score	3, 2 & 1 point respectively.

The maximum number of points able to be awarded at any National Hunter Benchrest Championship is 22. A competitor must amass a total of 15 points for entry into the Hall of Fame.

18.2.3 A Hall of Fame Award shall be conducted on a point score basis at the National Benchrest Championships in the Light Rimfire Benchrest and Heavy Rimfire Benchrest Classes and the 2 Gun Aggregate. A minimum number of twenty (20) competitors in each class and forty (40) competitors in the 2 gun aggregate must compete before points are allotted. The competitor numbers for the 2 gun aggregate points award can be achieved by any combination of the two class entries.

Points to be allocated as follows after the above criteria are met:

Distance score win in any of the 2 classes	1 point
Class Grand Score win in any of 2 classes	2 points
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Place in 2 Gun Score	3, 2 & 1 points

The maximum number of points able to be awarded at any one National Rimfire Benchrest Championship is 14. A competitor must amass a total of 15 points for entry into the Rimfire Benchrest Hall of Fame.

18.2 NATIONAL SSAA BENCHREST GROUP AWARDS

18.2.1 Medal Awards Available

18.2.2 Silver Award. May be won by any SSAA member who can shoot a five shot group at 100 yards, measuring less than one inch centre to centre.

18.2.3 Gold Award. May be won by any SSAA member who can shoot a ten shot group at 100 yards, measuring less than one inch centre to centre

18.2.4 Ruby Award. May be won by any SSAA member who can shoot a five shot group at 200 yards, measuring less than one inch centre to centre.

18.2.5 Diamond Award. May be won by any SSAA member who can shoot a ten shot group at 200 yards, measuring less than one inch centre to centre.

18.3 MEDAL AWARD RULES

18.4.1 All financial members of the SSAA may compete. Awards are free. There is no restriction on rifle or firing position

18.4.2 All awards must be shot on a SSAA range and witnessed by the official range officer

18.4.3 Members may win only one of each award

18.4.4 Targets may be of member's own choice, but there must be neither patched out holes nor more than one group on the target. Targets must be full size and not with the group cut out of it

18.4.5 If the shots cannot be counted, a backing strip or other acceptable verification material, tangible, not verbal must accompany the group. The Range Officer must witness both the target and the backer. The Range Officer or appointed deputy shall supervise the posting, shooting and retrieving of the target and backing strip

18.4.6 The following details must be listed on the face of the target: Name, address, membership expiry date from card, calibre, action, barrel, power and brand of telescopic sight, powder weight and type, case, primer, projectile brand and weight and type, SSAA range shot on, signature and range officer's signature and date shot. Failure to list all these items will result in disqualification of target

18.4.7 Targets eligible for awards should be mailed to the Benchrest Awards Secretary. Contact your State delegate for details. Insufficient postage will render disqualification

18.5 SCREAMER PATCH

18.5.1 Competitors in Registered Tournaments who meet the following criteria may win a Screamer Patch:

Rimfire:

50m - 0.199" and smaller 100yd - 0.399" and smaller

Centrefire:

5 shot 100yd 0.099" and smaller 10 shot 100yd - 0.199" and smaller

5 shot 200yd 0.249" and smaller 10 shot 200yd - 0.449" and smaller

5 shot 300yd 0.449" and smaller 10 shot 300yd - 0.699" and smaller

Targets eligible for Screamer Patch awards (along with the backing strip) are to be witnessed by one or both Delegates in attendance and submitted to the Benchrest Awards Secretary with the attached backing strip along with the prescribed "Application for Screamer Group" form for adjudication and distribution.

18.6 Hunter Class proficiency award

Competitors in Registered Tournaments who attain the following criteria may apply for 250 or 500 score patch as applicable.

250 Patch- 250 points at a single distance over 5 targets in the one class

500 Patch – 500 points over 2 distances in the same class (Grand Aggregate Total)

SECTION 19: AUTHORITY AND POWERS

19.1 The Benchrest Subcommittee is not an autonomous body within SSAA Inc and therefore all decisions of such committee must be ratified by either the National Conference or the National Board.

19.2 All State Benchrest Committees may place items on the Agenda for each National Benchrest Subcommittee meeting; such items should be in the hands of the

Chairman a minimum of two months prior to the meeting though may be submitted anytime prior to that deadline.

19.3 BENCHREST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

19.3.1 The 4 Gun Centrefire Benchrest National Championships held over the long weekend commonly known as the Easter holiday weekend shall comprise:

Sporter Benchrest Class
Light Benchrest Class
Heavy Benchrest Class
Experimental / Unlimited Class

19.3.2 Hunter Class National Championships shall comprise:

.22LR Light Rimfire Hunter class
.22LR Heavy Rimfire Hunter class
Centrefire Light and Heavy Hunter class

The Australian Benchrest Hunter Championships shall be held separate from the 4 Gun Centrefire Championships.

19.3.3 Rimfire Group and IRB National Championships shall comprise:

.22LR Light Rimfire Benchrest
.22LR Heavy Rimfire Benchrest classes
IRB (See Part C)

The timing of the two latter events is the prerogative of the State or Territory hosting the Australian Benchrest Championships and shall not be during the Easter period and each Championship will be held as complete and discrete events. The Rimfire and IRB National Championships shall be held separate from the 4 Gun Centrefire Championships.

The individual Championship events described above shall have their class events comprising the Championship held on consecutive days at the same Host range.

19.4 National selection for SSAA approved international competition shall be conducted in accordance with the approved National Benchrest Selection policy.

19.4.1 Qualifying events shall be the two National Championship events prior to the International event. However if the date of the International Championship event is such that the second qualifying event does not allow sufficient time for team selection and preparation an alternative event may be chosen by the Discipline Chair (and confirmed by the National Discipline Chair). The alternative event must have equitable competitor numbers and be of sufficient national stature as to serve as a valid alternative to the 2nd National Championship and be appropriately notified through Association media.

19.4.2 Preliminary qualifiers for SSAA team membership at International events under the approved selection policy shall be notified of their formal selection after the process and selection has been ratified by the National Board.

19.4.3 A qualifier approved by the National Board for International competition will also be required to complete all appropriate documentation and competitor agreements required by the Board.

SECTION 20: TOLERANCES

20.1 DISTANCES

- 20.1.1** Firing line to target frame (100,200 and 300 yds) - 0 +6 inches (152.4mm)
20.1.2 Firing line to target frame (50 Metres) - 0 +75 mm
20.1.3 Target frame to stationary backer +/- 3inches (76.2mm)

20.2 ANGLES

- 20.2.1** Alignment of target centre to bench centreline +/- 0.5 deg
20.2.2 Squareness of target to bench centreline +/- 2.0 deg

20.3 OTHER DIMENSIONS

- 20.3.1** Targets +/- 0.010 inches
20.3.2 Hunter Class scoring gauges + 0.0005/-0.0000 inches

20.4 TIME LIMITS

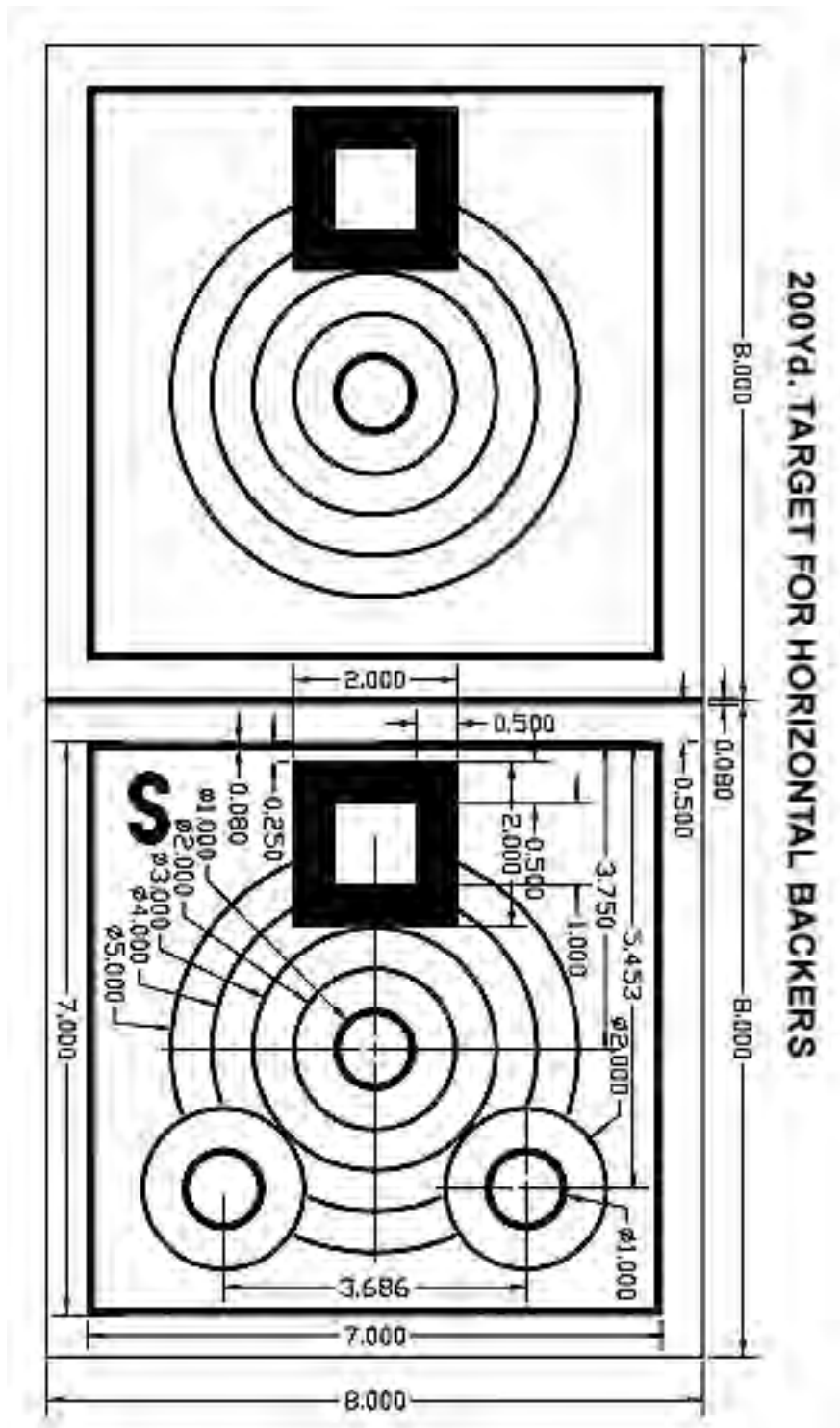
-0/+1 second

20.5 CONVERSION FACTORS

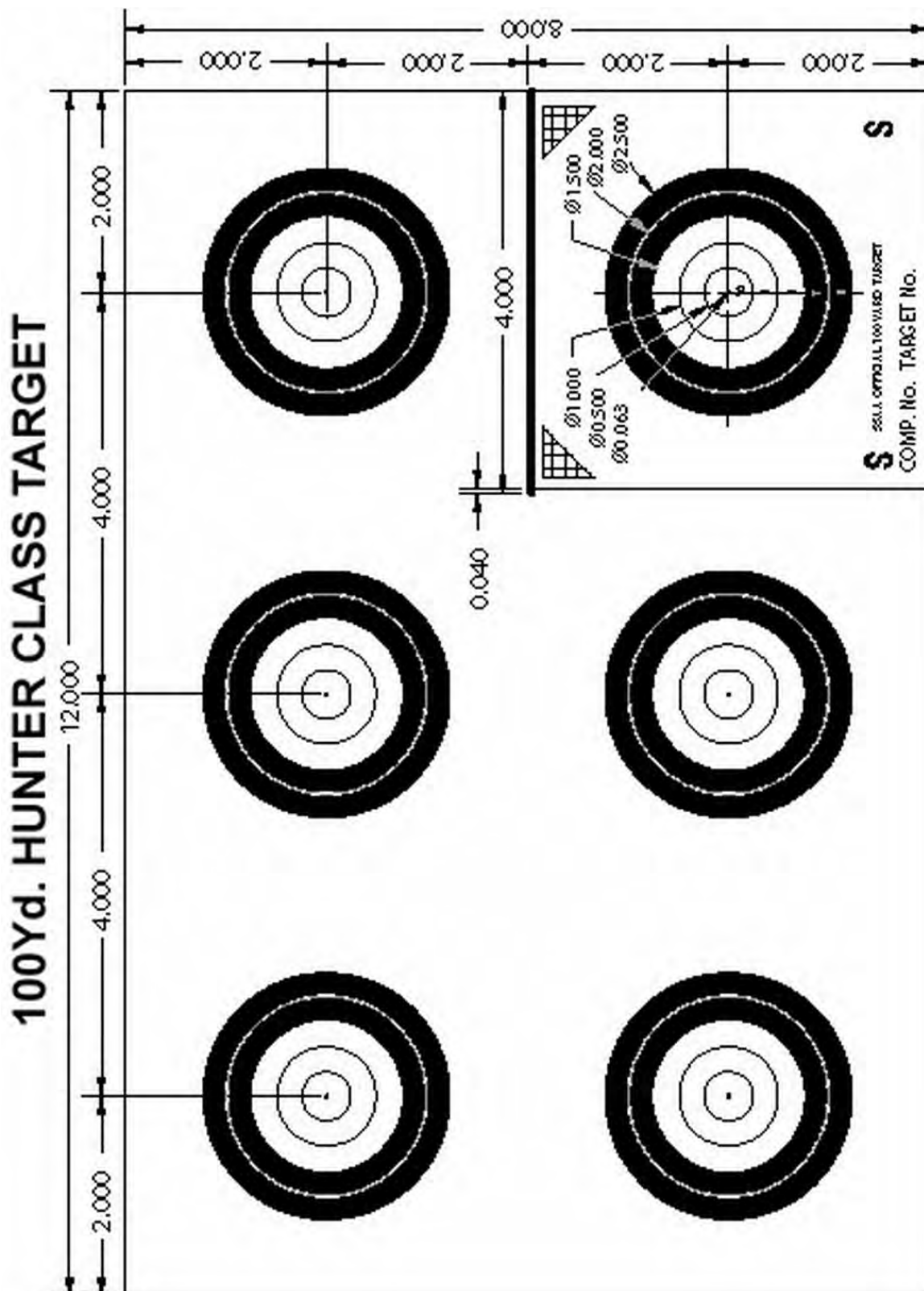
- 20.5.1** One inch = 25.4 millimetres
One pound = 0.453592370 Kilograms
(National Bureau of Standards 1967)

- 20.5.2** For the purposes of these Rules, the term "Minute of Angle" (MOA) is defined to be the angle subtended by one inch at one hundred yards, one half of one inch at 50 Metres, two inches at two hundred yards or three inches at three hundred yards depending on the distance at which the term is applied.

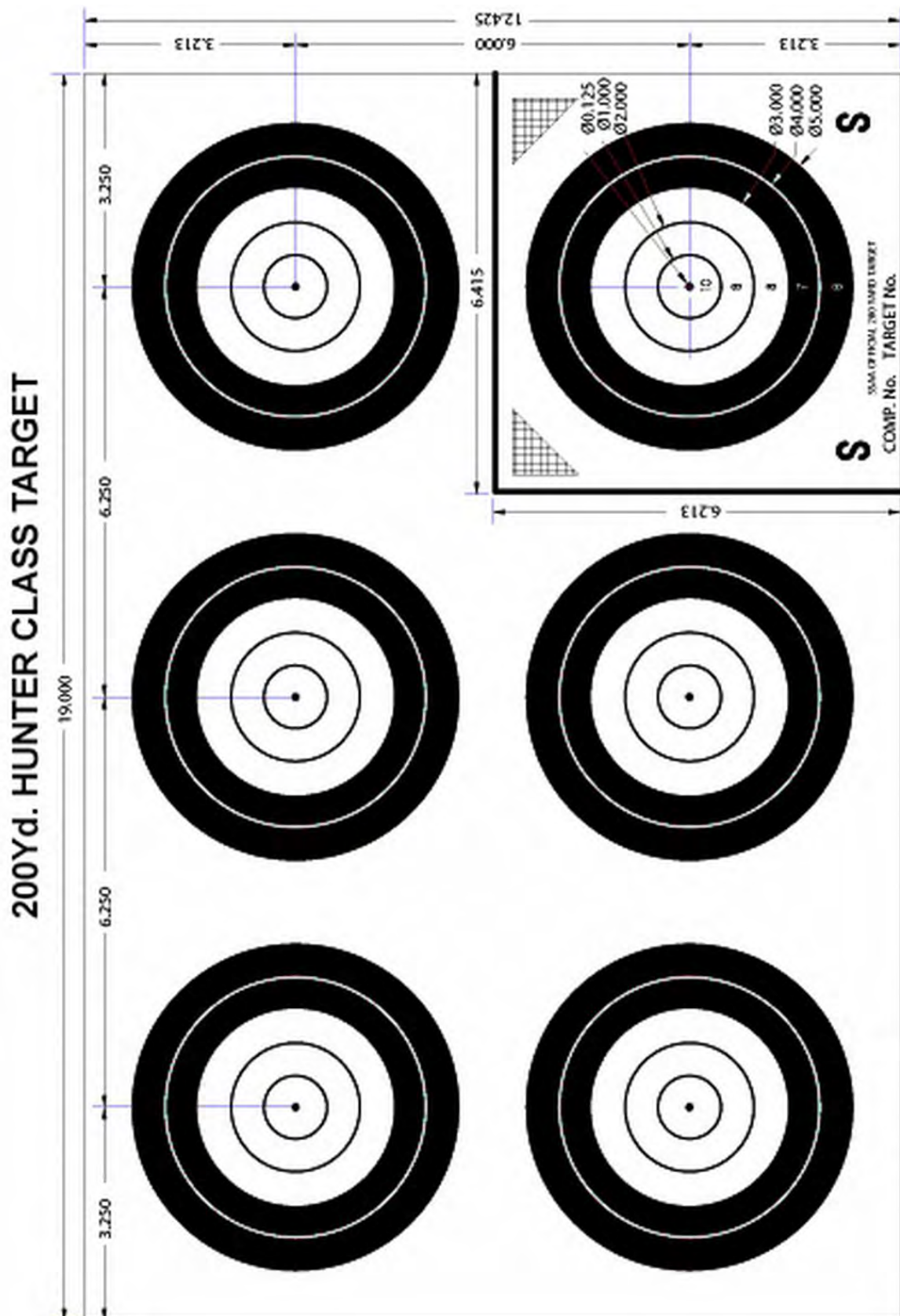
21.2 200 yard group target



21.4 100 yard score target for Hunter Class



21.5 200 yard score target for Hunter Class



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