



BIG GAME RIFLE

OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

Revised 2012

No. 3

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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.

BIG GAME RIFLE

NATIONAL RULES

Revised 2012 No. 3

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 These Rules are compiled:
 - 1.1.1 To foster and perpetuate an interest in the use of vintage and modern big game sporting rifles. Moreover, to encourage organised competitive shooting with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of such firearms.
 - 1.1.2 To provide a set of national shooting Rules which will guide competitors and assist competition staff in the orderly and consistent management of Big Game Rifle shooting in the SSAA.
 - 1.1.3 To compete, by way of simulating field conditions thus improving members firearm skills, safe handling and field skills, in the pursuit of large and dangerous game.
- 1.2 The overriding basis for our competition is that the sporting rifles used are in the spirit of the event.

Note: In the context of these Rules "in the spirit of the event" is taken to mean a rifle or gun of a style, weight and configuration as would normally be used, or have been used, in the game fields of the world.

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.

Any 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.

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 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.

2.4 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 Section 2.7 of these Rules.

2.4.4 Range Safety Rules

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

2.4.5 Safety Equipment

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

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

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

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 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:

2.7.1 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.

2.7.2 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.

2.7.3 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.

2.7.4 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.

2.7.5 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.

2.7.6 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.

2.7.7 Any accused person shall:

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

2.7.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear Evidence of the protest or appeal.

2.7.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.

2.7.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.

2.7.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.

2.7.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.

2.7.8 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.

2.8 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: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND AMMUNITION

The classification of Big Game Rifles has been agreed as follows:

3.1 Group One:

3.1.1 Minimum calibre .330"

3.1.2 Minimum bullet weight 165 grains

3.1.3 Minimum muzzle energy 2900 ft. lbs

3.2 Group Two:

3.2.1 Minimum calibre .400"

3.2.2 Minimum bullet weight 400 grains

3.2.3 Minimum muzzle energy 3900 ft. lbs

3.3 Group Three:

3.3.1 Minimum calibre .485"

3.3.2 Minimum bullet weight 525 grains

3.3.3 Minimum muzzle energy 5300 ft. lbs

3.4 Black Powder Express:

3.4.1 Minimum calibre .400"

3.4.2 Bullet weight to comply with the following:

- 400 calibre – 230 to 270 grains
- 450 calibre – 270 to 365 grains
- 500 calibre – 340 to 480 grains
- 577 calibre – 520 to 610 grains

3.4.3 Minimum case capacity 110 grains of black powder

3.4.4 Minimum muzzle velocity – 1600 fps.

3.4.5 Loads may be full black powder, pyrodex or duplex loads containing at least 80% black powder.

3.4.6 Jacketed bullets may be used with full black powder loads.

3.5 Stalking Double Rifle:

3.5.1 Any centrefire double rifle of minimum calibre .228”

3.6 Stopping Double Rifle:

3.6.1 Must meet the Group Two requirements or above. If using a bore gun or rifle it must be 12 gauge or greater.

3.7 Bore Guns and Rifles:

3.7.1 Any bore gun or rifle with full rifling or patent rifling, as in Paradox (rifled choke), or semi-invisible rifling for ball and shot. Smoothbore ball guns are permitted provided they are specifically designed for ball and have sights fitted by the original maker.

3.7.2 Minimum 16 bore.

3.7.3 Must have maker's fitted sights.

3.7.4 May use black powder or nitro loads. Must be factory maximum or equivalent reloads.

3.7.5 Projectiles must be of a traditional design such as round ball, bluff nosed or paradox and must be bore riding. Shotgun slugs, such as “Brenneke” slugs, sabotated projectiles or similar modern developments are not permitted.

3.7.6 Firearms of modern manufacture in keeping with the spirit of the event may be used, for example the Greener GP.

3.8 Proof of Eligibility of Any Rifle:

3.8.1 Where there is any doubt as to the eligibility of a particular rifle, calibre or piece of equipment, the competitor may be required to provide documentary evidence that the rifle and any accessory meets the definitions as defined in these Rules.

3.8.2 The National Discipline Chairman or his nominee shall disallow any rifle, Caliber or piece of associated equipment where it is contrary to the spirit of the competition.

3.9 Ammunition:

- 3.9.1 Ammunition is to be as close as practical to factory ballistics of the original ammunition and must meet the minimum criteria laid down for the class being contested.
- 3.9.2 A shooter shall have available at the firing line, two (2) extra rounds for Evaluation by the Range Officer if required. Failure to comply with the above will mean disqualification from the particular event.
- 3.9.3 If evaluation of a shooter's ammunition is required then the Range Officer will choose at random from the firing line those rounds required for evaluation.
- 3.9.4 Evaluation of ammunition will be carried out by the use of a chronograph and the competitor's rifle and / or by manual checking of projectiles for weight and type
- 3.9.5 Ammunition may not be borrowed while on the line.

SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING RULES

- 4.1 **Spotting Scopes:** The use of spotting scopes will not be permitted.
- 4.2 **Optics:** No personal optical aids, other than safety or prescription glasses are permitted to be used in events.
- 4.3 **Slings:** Slings may be fitted but must not be used as a shooting aid.
- 4.4 **Double Rifle firing sequence:** A competitor using a double rifle must fire the barrels in sequence. This means that in any firing sequence no two consecutive shots can be from the same barrel.
- 4.5 **Clothing:** Shooting Coats or Jackets shall not have any devices to stiffen or restrict the body. Any rifle sling must not be fixed to the clothing by any means, e.g. buttons or straps. The coat may have shoulder and/or elbow pads. Recoil reducing pads may be worn under the competitor's apparel.
- 4.6 **Scope Sights:** Scope sights may be used subject to the following conditions. In these Rules a scope sight includes any optical device that gives a single sighting plane. For example 'red dot' and holographic sights are included in this definition.
 - 4.6.1 Rifles fitted with scope sights up to and including four (4) power may be used subject to the following points penalty.

Group One	15 points
Group Two	10 points
Group Three	6 points
Stalker Double Rifle	10 points
Stopper Double Rifle	7 points
Charging Animal	4 points
Special Snap	6 points

4.6.2 Rifles fitted with scope sights over four (4) power may be used subject to the following points penalty.

Group One	20 points
Group Two	14 points
Group Three	8 points
Stalker Double Rifle	14 points
Stopper Double Rifle	10 points
Charging Animal	6 points
Special Snap	8 points

4.6.3 Scope sights are not permitted in the following two events: Black Powder Express and Bore Guns.

4.6.4 Variable power scopes may be used provided the Range Officer is satisfied that the power will remain at an appropriate setting during the event.

4.6.5 The penalty is applied in full to the shooter's score. It is not dependent on the number of shots fired or the number of scoring shots on the target. For example, if a shooter using a four power scoped rifle and scores 167 points in the Group One event, then 15 points are subtracted leaving a score of 152 points.

4.6.6 The full penalty also applies if a scope is only used for some of the shots during an event. In this case, if a detachable scope is used for only the 100 yard shots and then removed, the whole penalty still applies.

4.6.7 Changes to the reticule or sighting system are not allowed during the course of an event.

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

4.7.1 **Certificate:** Each petition will be reviewed by the National Discipline Chairman and may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. If approved, the Chairman will issue a special authorisation certificate to the individual concerned. Such certificates will have necessary pictures attached. Shooters who have received special authorisation certificates are required to present them when requested by officials of the competition or by the Range Officer.

4.7.2 **Protests:** In the event of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a competitor, the Appeals Committee will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the competitor. If the competitor's position or equipment does not, in the opinion of the officials, conform to that authorised by the Discipline Chairman (or if the competitor has no authorised 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.

4.7.3 **Types of Authorisation:** Two types are issued, temporary and permanent. Permanent authorisations are issued to competitors who have permanent physical disabilities.

SECTION 5: NATIONAL BIG GAME RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.1 A National Big Game Rifle Championship will be held on an annual basis.

5.2 These Championships are to be hosted on a rotational basis.

5.3 The Host Branch / Club shall ensure that competitors at National Championships are afforded reasonable access to the range, targets and facilities for practice purposes on the day / days prior to those National Championships.

5.4 Each National Big Game Rifle Championship shall consist of the following events:

- 5.4.1 Group One
- 5.4.2 Group Two
- 5.4.3 Group Three
- 5.4.4 Charging Animal: Note - Special Snap may be substituted if the host range cannot accommodate the Charging Animal event.
- 5.4.5 Black Powder Express
- 5.4.6 Stalking Double Rifle
- 5.4.7 Stopping Double Rifle
- 5.4.8 Bore Guns and Rifles
- 5.5 These events are categorised in two sections as follows:

- 5.5.1 Stalking Rifles:

- Group One

- Charging Animal and Special Snap

- Stalking Double Rifle

- Black Powder Express

- 5.5.2 Stopping Rifles:

- Group Two

- Group Three

- Stopping Double Rifle

- Bore Guns and Rifles

5.6 Required Events for Championships: All competitors competing for the title of “National Champion” MUST compete in a minimum of TWO Stalking Rifle and TWO Stopping Rifle categories to be eligible.

The Scorers will collate the National Championship score from the highest two percentages in each category and aggregate them.

The Ladies, Junior and Veteran Championships are to be an aggregate of any two Big Game Rifle events. In the event of a tied score for National Open, Veteran, Ladies or Junior Champion, joint winners will be declared.

5.6.1 Ladies medal: A SSAA medal may be presented to the lady who achieves The highest overall score of those ladies competing in the competition. The Decision to present this medal is at the discretion of the National Discipline Chairman. The winning of a Ladies medal does not preclude the lady from winning any other medal.

5.6.2 A Veteran competitor is a person who has passed their sixtieth (60) birthday.

5.7 **State Teams:** It is agreed that each team shall consist of three (3) members and it will be the responsibility of each State and/or Territory to select their own team members. All team members MUST compete in a minimum of TWO Stalking Rifle and TWO Stopping Rifle categories to be eligible. The team score is the sum of the three team members individual aggregate as recorded for the “National Champion” in 5.6.

5.8 The course of fire for the events listed in paragraph 5.4, to be as follows:

5.8.1 Group One and Black Powder Express: 20 shots

5.8.1.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
100 metres	4	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 10 minutes
100 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	Up to 10 minutes
50 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	Up to 10 minutes
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	In 10 seconds
25 metres	3 X 2 shots	Standing Unsupported	Each pair in 10 seconds

5.8.2 Group Two and Bore Guns and Rifles: 14 shots

5.8.2.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
100 metres	2	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 5 minutes
100 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	In 10 seconds
25 metres	3 X 2 shots	Standing Unsupported	Each pair in 10 seconds

5.8.3 Group Three: 8 shots

5.8.3.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
100 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	In 10 seconds
25 metres	2 X 2 shots	Standing Unsupported	Each pair in 10 seconds

5.8.4 Charging Animal: 6 shots

5.8.4.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
75 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Total time 35 seconds
25 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	

On command the competitor will fire 6 shots, in order, 2 shots at the 75 metre target, 2 shots at the 50 metre target and 2 shots at the 25 metre target.

5.8.5 Special Snap: 8 shots

5.8.5.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
25 metres	8	Standing Unsupported	Total time 35 seconds

5.8.6 Stopping Double Rifle: 10 shots

5.8.6.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	In 16 seconds
25 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	In 16 seconds

5.8.7 Stalking Double Rifle: 14 shots

5.8.7.1

Range	Shots	Position	Timing
100 metres	2	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 5 minutes
100 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	2	Standing Unsupported	Up to 5 minutes
50 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	In 16 seconds
25 metres	4	Standing Unsupported	In 16 seconds

SECTION 6: NATIONAL BIG GAME RIFLE CHAMPIONS

6.1 The National Big Game Rifle Champions will be known as follows:-

6.1.1 National Big Game Rifle Champion.

6.1.2 National Big Game Rifle Ladies Champion (as in rule 5.6.1)

- 6.1.3 National Big Game Rifle Junior Champion - Under 15 years
- 6.1.4 National Big Game Rifle Junior Champion - Under 18 years and 15 years and over
- 6.1.5 National Big Game Rifle Veteran Champion.
- 6.1.6 National Big Game Rifle State Team Champions.

SECTION 7: POSTAL COMPETITIONS

- 7.1 A number of postal competitions may be held each year.

SECTION 8: MODE OF CONDUCTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 8.1 **Rifle and Equipment Check:** Prior to the commencement of the Competition each competitor's rifle may be checked to ensure compliance with Section 3 of these Rules. Rifles shall be checked by a person with expertise in this field.
- 8.2 **Position and Detail:** The Host Branch / Club shall draw up a programme prior to the commencement of each event with each competitor's firing position and detail number. Left-handed shooters and shooters using muzzle brakes may be given the last position/s on the firing line in each detail.
- 8.3 **Fouling Shots:** One fouling shot per barrel is allowed prior to the commencement of each event.
- 8.4 **Briefing:** Competitors shall be called together prior to the commencement of the competition and the National Chairman or nominee will brief them on the following:
 - 8.4.1 Timing procedures and the penalties in these Rules for timing infringements.
 - 8.4.2 The penalties in these Rules for cross-fires and extra shots on targets.
 - 8.4.3 The procedure outlined in these Rules for appeals, the fee to be employed and the names of the members of the Appeals Committee.
 - 8.4.4 The procedure for dealing with misfires outlined in these Rules.
 - 8.4.5 The procedure for dealing with a stuck live round.
- 8.5 **Competitors:** Each detail will be called to the firing line prior to the

commencement of their event and the following information given to them (if required) by the Range Officer: name, competitor number, position number, event to be contested, mode of fire, distance to the targets and the time limit. The Range Officer will then check that each competitor has the required number of rounds for that event plus two extra rounds. When all shooters are ready the Range Officer will proceed with the course of fire.

- 8.6 **Disruption to Competition:** Once a competition has begun it is to continue without unnecessary delays to its completion. Range Officers are required to exercise their discretion in regards to circumstances that may affect the successful completion of the competition.
- 8.7 **Targets:** All targets used for National Championships are to be the SSAA Official 50 metre slow fire pistol target and printed on target grade paper.

SECTION 9: COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1 Range Safety Rules:

- 9.1.1 All firearms must be cleared by the Range Officer before their removal from the firing line and placement in rifle racks or bags.
- 9.1.2 When on the firing line, firearms are to be pointing in a safe direction.
- 9.1.3 No person shall move in front of the firing line until all firearms are unloaded and the Range Officer declares the range clear to move forward.
- 9.1.4 Any breach of safety or serious malfunction must be brought to the immediate attention of the Range Officer, who will give the necessary orders to rectify the problem.
- 9.1.5 If a misfire occurs, the competitor is to keep the action closed with the firearm pointing down range and summon the Range Officer.
- 9.1.6 No person shall handle another's firearm without the owner's permission or the Range Officer's instructions.
- 9.1.7 When outside the designated shooting area or firing line, all firearms must be unloaded (chamber(s) and magazine), and actions open.
- 9.2 **Hand loading:** It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all safe practices for the hand loading of ammunition are diligently observed.

- 9.3 **Time Limits:** The onus to complete firing within the time limits as laid down in these Rules is entirely the responsibility of the competitor, however the Host Branch / Club should institute all procedures to assist in this regard.
- 9.4 **Rifle Compliance:** A competitor is to ensure that any rifle used under the provisions of Section 3 complies with these Rules. Rifle and equipment may be checked at any time before or during the competition. If the rifle is of a different calibre than the one originally nominated for the competition, the competitor is to ensure that the Head Scorer is notified before the targets are scored.
- 9.5 **Coaching:** There is to be no outside assistance of any nature, including spotting, whilst a competitor is on the firing line at Championships.

SECTION 10: RANGE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 10.1 **Safety:** The range must meet all normal State or Territories safety requirements.
- 10.2 **Range / Post Requirements:** Host Branches / Clubs must have a range with facilities consisting of:-
- 100 metre Range
 - 75 metre Range
 - 50 metre Range
 - 25 metre Range
- Distances in yards may be used in lieu of metres if the Host Range has fixed target positions marked in yards. The 75 metre (or yards) range is only used for the Charging Animal event. If this distance is unavailable then the Special Snap event may be substituted. The range must be able to accommodate a minimum of ten (10) shooting stations and target frames at the required distances.
- 10.3 **Target Numbers:** These shall be positioned on the target frames or inscribed on each target at all ranges to clearly identify each set of targets belonging to each competitor and be clearly sighted from any shooting position to be used. Minimum distance between the centres of each competitor's target to be one (1) metre.
- 10.4 **Scoreboards:** Scores are to be displayed in plain view of competitors throughout the competition. The scores shall be updated frequently.

SECTION 11: DEFINITION OF SHOOTING POSITIONS

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

- 11.1 **Prone:** Lying on the ground with the rifle held in both hands, with one hand forward of the pistol grip. No part of the rifle shall make contact with the ground. No part of the body or limbs to touch any other object apart from the ground.
- 11.2 **Standing Unsupported:** Standing erect on both feet without support of any kind for either the rifle or the shooter, with no part of the body or limbs to touch the ground or any other object, except the soles of the boots or shoes. The rifle must be held in both hands, with one hand forward of the pistol grip.
- 11.3 **Standing Post Rest:** Standing erect on both feet and placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a post erected for this purpose, while holding the fore-end of the rifle with the left hand, or resting the fore-end of the rifle on the left wrist or forearm.
- 11.4 **Sitting:** Sitting with no part of the body or limbs to touch any external support or object.
- 11.5 **Sitting Post Rest:** The manner of sitting is left to the competitor's own choice, and placing the left hand or rifle, or both, against a post erected for this purpose, while holding the fore-end of the rifle with the left hand, or resting the fore-end of the rifle on the left wrist or forearm.
- 11.6 **Kneeling:** Kneeling so that the competitor touches the ground only with the underside of the left foot and the lower underside of the right leg, including foot and knee, the buttocks resting on the right foot or heel and the left elbow on the left knee, no other part of the body is to touch any support or object. No kneeling roll is to be used under the right instep.
- 11.7 **Firing Line:** In the interests of safety, all competitors must keep their bodies behind the firing line at all times while shooting is in progress and be subject to the Range Officer's commands. Allowance shall be made for fingers around the posts etc., extending slightly beyond the posts but not beyond the firing line immediately in front of the posts.
- 11.8 **Rapid Fire Starting Position:** The starting or ready position for rapid fire is defined as standing unsupported with the butt visible below the elbow at hip level and the muzzle pointed down range in a safe direction. The rifle to remain in this position until the command "Fire" is given.

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

SECTION 12: RANGE COMMANDS

- 12.1 **Slow Fire Targets** starting position and procedure:
- 12.1.1 **"Load":** The chamber(s) and magazine (if fitted) may be loaded and action closed. At all times, the muzzle of the rifle must be pointed down range. The Range Officer will ask "Is any shooter not ready?" and if there is no reply within three (3) seconds, the command to commence fire will be given.
- 12.1.2 **"Commence Fire":** The commencement of the timing (shooting) is to be taken from the word "Fire" and checked with a stop watch for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.
- 12.1.3 **"Cease Fire":** After the prescribed time has elapsed, the cease fire command will be given. The word "Cease" will be called one (1) second before the end of the allowed time and the word "Fire" to be given exactly on the finishing time.
- 12.2 **Rapid Fire** starting position and procedure using stationary targets:
- 12.2.1 **Basic commands:**
- 12.2.1.1 **"Load":** The chamber(s) and magazine (if fitted) may be loaded and action closed. At all times, the muzzle of the rifle must be pointed down range. The Range Officer will allow the competitors time to load and explain the commands. The Range Officer will then ask "Is any shooter not ready?", and after a pause of approximately three (3) seconds the following commands will be given.
- 12.2.1.2 **"Commence Fire":** The command is to be given with a one second delay between the words. The commencement of the timing (shooting) is to be taken from the word "Fire" and checked with a stop watch for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.
- 12.2.1.3 **"Cease Fire":** After the prescribed time has elapsed, the cease fire command will be given. The word "Cease" will be called one (1) second before the end of the allowed time and the word "Fire" to be given exactly on the finishing time.

- 12.3 **General Commands**
- 12.3.1 **Bell or Horn:** A bell or horn may be used as well and is to be sounded in conjunction with the command "Fire".
- 12.3.2 **Fire:** The word "Fire" being the operative word in each command as well as the bell or horn if used.
- 12.3.3 **Leaving Firing Line:** The chambers and magazines of all rifles will be checked by the Range Officer before the competitor can leave the firing line.
- 12.3.4 **Movement of the firing line:** Movement of the firing line may be permitted between stages. Movement of the firing line is governed by the range safety requirements.
- 12.3.4.1 Command given for a normal cease fire:
"Cease Fire. Open all actions. Remain on the firing line until your firearm has been cleared by a Range Officer"
- 12.3.4.2 Command given to move to next firing position:
"Range clear. Keep your action open and move to the next firing position."
- 12.3.4.3 In the event an emergency cease fire is required the command is:
"Cease Fire". Any competitor can use this command for safety reasons.

SECTION 13: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

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

- 13.1 **Chief Range Officer:** One (1) to conduct the Championships in a safe and proper manner and carry out the procedures as outlined in these Rules.
- 13.2 **Additional Range Officer(s):** One or more may be appointed to assist the Chief Range Officer in controlling safety during the match and any other matters as requested by the Chief Range Officer.
- 13.3 **Target detail:** A target detail shall comprise a minimum of two (2) persons who preferably are non-competitors and experienced in their duties.
- 13.3.1 **Duties:** They are to attach new targets to the frames, check the number and dispersion of shots on the targets and notify the Range

Officer of any matter requiring investigation. They are to convey shot targets directly to the Head Scorer and carry out the shifting of target frames and stationary backers at distance changes. They are also to check that the position numbers of each competitor's targets are correctly in place prior to each detail.

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

13.4.1 **Head Scorer:** Must be experienced and is to score all targets shot. If a gauge is available it is to be used to check all close shots {re Rule 14.1 below} and supervise the scoring in accordance with Section 14 of these Rules. The Head Scorer is the only one to insert the gauge, which will be done only once per hole and the decision reached between the Head Scorer and the Check Scorer and if necessary the Appeals Committee, shall be final.

13.4.2 **Check Scorer:** Must be experienced and is to check the result of each gauged shot while the gauge is in position and check other aspects of the scoring (re Section 14) before posting the scores. Scores and shot targets to be posted as soon as possible for inspection by competitors.

SECTION 14: SCORING, CROSS-FIRES, EXTRA SHOTS, PENALTIES, ETC.

14.1 **Scoring:** Only the maximum of shots, as allowed under Section 6 of the Rules, will be scored on any one target. Targets are to be scored in the usual manner: i.e. a hit that touches a scoring ring including the x ring, shall be given the higher value if a gauge or scoring slide of the same calibre as that used to fire on the target, touches some part of the ring when the gauge or scoring slide is used.

14.1.1 When two competitors have an identical score the tie will be broken by the count back, e.g. where two competitors have a score of 150 competitor (a) has in his score 3 x 10 rings and competitor (b) has 2 x 10 rings then competitor (a) will be declared the winner.

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

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

- 14.2.1 In the case of there being additional shots of an obviously different calibre, the target will be scored normally. That is, the alien shots will be disregarded.
- 14.2.2 In the event of there being more than the required number of shots of the same calibre, the lowest scoring shots are to be discounted.
- 14.3 **Extra Shots:** Where a competitor has fired more than the permitted number of shots for a particular position, the highest valued shots will be struck out from targets on which more than the required number of shots have been fired, until only the number of shots required for that position remain.
- 14.4 **Time Penalties:** Any competitor who fires outside (before or after) the shooting times denoted by the commands as outlined in these Rules shall have the highest scoring shot taken from his score in that position for each infringement.
- 14.5 **Infringements:** In the event of a combination of the above infringements, they will be dealt with in the following order:
- 14.5.1 Cross fires refer Section 14, paragraph 14.2
- 14.5.2 Extra shots refer Section 14, paragraph 14.3
- 14.5.3 Time penalties refer Section 14, paragraph 14.4
- 14.6 **Inspection of Targets:** All competition targets are to be available for inspection after scoring. Targets cannot be removed until the Championship has been completed.

SECTION 15: CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS AND TROPHIES

- 15.1 **Championship Medals:** The National Chairman will be responsible for organising the National Championship medals for the events and categories as outlined in Section 6, of the Rules.
- 15.2 **Perpetual Trophies:** If applicable, the National Chairman will be responsible for organising all perpetual trophies to be available for presentation at each National Championship.

SECTION 16: MALFUNCTIONS

- 16.1 **Deeming rifles and/or ammunition unserviceable** - The Range Officer may deem any suspect rifle or ammunition as unserviceable or unsafe. Once so deemed, the rifle shall be removed from the firing

line and not re-admitted until cleared by the Range Officer. The Range Officer will be guided strictly by the principle that if there is any doubt, the rifle is to be disqualified from further range use until the problem has been positively rectified.

- 16.2 **Misfires** - In the event of a misfire, a competitor must not open the action of the rifle for at least 60 seconds, during which time the rifle must continue to be pointed down range. It is the competitor's responsibility to inform the Range Officer immediately of any such occurrence. Barrel must be inspected for obstructions.
- 16.3 **Broken Rifle** - A competitor, whose rifle breaks or ceases to function, may change to another rifle between stages of an event. The course of fire can then be completed with the substitute rifle. The Head Scorer is to be notified.
- 16.4 **Permitted Re-shoot** - The Appeals Committee only, may deem that a competitor has not received a fair opportunity due to some act of providence or unforeseen circumstance and permit the competitor another attempt.

SECTION 17: SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

- 17.1 Below is a list of Big Game Rifle Supplementary events used by some States and Branches.

Note: The Rules below are subject to change and amendment at State and Branch level and are given here for information only. Before entering any competition check which Rules are applicable for that competition.

- 17.1.1 **African Plains Rifle (Q)**
- a. Magnum Calibres 6.5 to 8mm inclusive
 - b. Min. bullet weight 140 grains
 - c. Min. muzzle energy 3,000 ft lbs
 - d. 20 rounds per match
 - e. No scope penalty
 - f. 50m Slow Fire Pistol Target used throughout.

FIRING SEQUENCE

African Plains Rifle (20 shots)
200m - 3 shots using shooting sticks (5 minutes)
- 2 shots sitting post (5 minutes)
- 2 shots standing post (5 minutes)
100m - 3 shots offhand (5 minutes)
- 3 shots sitting post (5 minutes)
- 3 shots standing post (5 minutes)

- 50m - offhand
- 2 shots Rapidfire (20 seconds)
- 2 shots Rapidfire (15 seconds)

17.1.2 **Light Black Powder – Military and Sporting (Q)**

- a. Military – minimum .360 calibre
- b. Sporting - minimum .360 calibre
- c. Min. muzzle energy 900 ft lbs
- d. Min. powder load 50 grains black powder
- e. Max. powder load 100 grains black powder
- f. Duplex loads to comprise no more than 10% smokeless powder
- g. Cartridge has to have originally been a black powder cartridge
- h. NO telescopic sights

FIRING SEQUENCE

Light Black Powder – Military and Sporting (20 shots)

- 100yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 4 shots kneeling/sitting (10 minutes)
- 50yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 2 shots off hand(10 seconds)
- 25yds - 3 x 2 shots off hand (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots)

17.1.3 **Light Black Powder - Military and Sporting (V)**

- a. Military .450 to .577.
- b. Sporting .360 to .461.
- c. Minimum muzzle energy 400 ft lbs.
- d. Maximum powder loads 100 grains black.
- e. Duplex loads to comprise no more than 10% smokeless powder.
- f. Maximum bullet weight, up to and including .461 calibre - 360 grains.
- g. All military rifles must shoot lead projectiles only. Jacketed can only be used in sporting rifles with full black powder loads.

FIRING SEQUENCE Total 12 shots:

- 100 yards - 4 shots kneeling or sitting (no time limit).
- 50 yards - 2 shots offhand, 2 in 10 seconds.
- 25 yards - 2 x 2 shots offhand (10 seconds each bracket).

17.1.4 **Classic Cartridge (Q)**

- a. Min. calibre .228 Centrefire
- b. The cartridge must have been introduced up to and including 1939.
- c. Scope Penalty – as laid down by the Host State or Branch.

FIRING SEQUENCE

- Classic Cartridge/Pot Rifle (20 shots)
- 100yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 4 shots off hand sitting/kneeling (10 minutes)

50yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 2 shots off hand (10 seconds)
25yds - 3 x 2 shots off hand (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots)

17.1.5

Classic Light Nitro (V)

- a. Minimum calibre .228 centrefire.
- b. The cartridge must have been introduced up to and including 1939.
- c. The rifle to have been manufactured up to and including 1939.
- d. The rifle to have originally been made as a sporting rifle.
- e. No telescopic sights permitted.

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 20 shots
100yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 4 shots off hand sitting/kneeling (10 minutes)
50yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 2 shots off hand (10 seconds)
25yds - 3 x 2 shots off hand (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots)

17.1.6

Light Nitro / Hunting Class (V)

- a. Minimum calibre .224 centrefire.
- b. The rifle to have a sporting configuration.
- c. Telescopic sights permitted with no penalty.

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 20 shots
100yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 4 shots off hand sitting/kneeling (10 minutes)
50yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 2 shots off hand (10 seconds)
25yds - 3 x 2 shots off hand (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots)

17.1.7

Rook and Rabbit Rifle (Q)

- a. Muzzleloaders and cartridges introduced before 1905
- b. Muzzle energy not to exceed 400 ft lbs. Muzzleloaders to use a max. powder charge equal to caliber e.g. .45 cal = 45gns max.
- c. Plain base lead bullets only – round lead ball for muzzleloaders only
- d. Cartridge rifles to have been made before 1940.
Muzzleloaders to be of pre 20th Century styling.
- e. No bolt actions or semi-automatics
- f. No telescopic sights
- g. No target rifles
- h. To include 25/20 and 32/20 using plain base lead load
- i. Excluding .22 Rimfire.

FIRING SEQUENCE
Rook and Rabbit Rifle (10 shots)

50yds - 3 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 3 shots sitting/kneeling (10 minutes)
25yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)

17.1.8

Pot Rifle (Q)

- a. Any sporting Centrefire rifle
- b. The rifle to have a sporting configuration
- c. Scope Penalty – as laid down by the Host State or Branch.

FIRING SEQUENCE

Classic Cartridge/Pot Rifle (20 shots)
100yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 4 shots off hand sitting/kneeling (10 minutes)
50yds - 4 shots off hand (10 minutes)
- 2 shots off hand (10 seconds)
25yds - 3 x 2 shots off hand (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots)

17.1.9

Pot Rifle (V)

For Sporting Rifles in .22 Rimfire or .22 Magnum calibre.
Scopes allowed with no penalties.
Standard targets to be used.

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 15 shots

50 yards - 5 shots offhand.
- 5 shots any position.
25 yards - 5 shots offhand.
Standard targets to be used. Under 14, all shot at 25 yards.

17.1.10

Old Bull (V)

Entrants must be over 45 years of age.
Entrants must use a rifle older than they are.
There will be no time limits.
Ranges not to exceed 50 yards.
Any centre fire caliber over .240
Any sights may be used.

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 10 shots

5 shots offhand.
5 shots any position.

There will be no penalties for scopes etc but bonus points may be awarded as follows:

Open sights: + 5 points.
Black Powder: + 5 points.

17.1.11

Settlers Rifle (Q)

- a. Cast lead bullets – plain base or gas check
- b. No power factor

- c. Action types – no semi-automatics
- d. Sights – iron sights, but not globe front sights; blade or bead front sights only
- e. Calibre – any Centrefire case – maximum 1.45” long

FIRING SEQUENCE

Settlers Rifle (10 to 20 shots)
50yds – maximum distance

17.1.12

Howdah Pistol (Q)

- a. Minimum calibre .375
- b. Single or double barrel
- c. Smooth or ball rifling
- d. Min. muzzle energy 1,000 ft lbs
- e. Min. 300 grain bullet weight

FIRING SEQUENCE

Howdah Pistol (max. 10 shots)
25yds – to be decided by Host Branch
10yds – to be decided by Host Branch
("Tiger" target if possible)

17.1.13

India Shoot (V)

Total 10 shots: More rounds should be carried in case of a shoot of (4 rounds minimum).
100 yards - 2 sighting shots any position.
Competitors then inspect and patch their individual target.
100 yards - 8 scoring shots, 4 shots off hand and 4 shots any position.
Shoot off to decide tied scores.

For India Shoot: "National Rifle Association of India's Special Double Rifle Target", to be used were possible. 6 inch square bulls eye scoring 4. The inner centre 1 foot square scoring 3. The outer centre 2 foot square scoring 2, the rest of the target measuring 6 feet x 4 feet scoring 1.

17.1.14

Hayley's Hop (V)

- a. As shot by the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters & Guides Association
- b. Targets are set out in a widely staggered formation at 50, 30 and 15 yards
- c. Two shots are fired into each target
- d. No more than two rounds in the rifle or magazine at any time
- e. The score is divided by the time taken to shoot the competition
- f. Rifles are magazine rifles of Group One Nitro minimum
- g. Five points bonus for Group Three rifles
- h. Three points bonus for Group Two rifles

17.1.15

Ladies and Juniors Event (V)

For Sporting Rifles in .22 calibre.
Scopes allowed with no penalties.
Standard targets to be used.

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 15 shots

50 yards - 5 shots offhand.

- 5 shots any position.

25 yards - 5 shots offhand.

Standard targets to be used. Under 14, all shot at 25 yards.

17.1.16

Nitro Stopper (V)

Any Group Two or Group Three rifle

FIRING SEQUENCE: Total 6 shots

25 yards - 4 shots offhand (25 seconds)

17.1.17

Black Powder Stopper (V)

Samuel Baker Memorial Trophy

Minimum caliber: 12 bore, Minimum case length: 2.75 inches.

Minimum powder charge:

6 drams 12 bore, Spherical ball.

6 drams 10 bore, Spherical ball.

8 drams 8 bore, Spherical ball.

Note: The charge of 8 drams is also applicable to some 8 bores using heavy conical bullets.

Rifles, Bore Guns & Ball Guns applicable to this class.

Bore rifles:

a. Bore guns, 10 bore, 8 bore and 4 bore with patent rifling eg "Paradox".

b. 12 bore, 10 bore, 8 bore and 4 bore, smooth bore ball guns designed by the maker for shooting ball. Factory fitted with front & rear sights.

No modern firearms, no shotguns fitted with sights, slug barrels or rifled chokes.

No Brenneke or like projectiles, all projectiles must either be round ball or as per the historically correct pattern for the firearm used (Fosbery, conical etc.).

In the event of a tied score, the order of places will be decided by a shoot off.

The highest score out of two shots in a time frame of 5 seconds will be the winner. If in the event of a tied score, should any competitor be without cartridges for a shoot off, that competitor will be out of the contest and immediately take the lower place.

All loads will be full black powder only.

FIRING SEQUENCE For cartridge guns:

Total 6 shots: At 25 yards, in 36 seconds

Muzzle loading rifles - 10 bore minimum, double barrel rifles only.

Powder Charge - 6 drams minimum.

FIRING SEQUENCE For muzzle loading guns:

Total 6 shots: At 25 yards

Three brackets of two shots each in twelve seconds.

17.1.18

Reduced Firing Sequences for Range Days (V)

A normal 20 shot event reduced to 12 shots as follows:

- 100 yards - 2 shots off hand, (no time limit).
- 2 shots kneeling or sitting, (no time limit).
- 50 yards - 2 shots off hand, (no time limit).
- 2 shots off hand in 10 seconds.
- 25 yards - 2 x 2 shots off hand, (10 seconds, each bracket of 2 shots).

A normal 14 shot event reduced to 10 shots as follows:

- 100 yards - 2 shots off hand, (no time limit).
- 50 yards - 2 shots off hand, (no time limit).
- 2 shots off hand. (10 seconds).
- 25 yards - 2 x 2 shots off hand, (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots).

A normal 8 shot event reduced to 6 shots as follows:

- 50 yards - 2 shots off hand, (no time limit).
- 25 yards - 2 x 2 shots off hand, (10 seconds each bracket of 2 shots).