



**LEVER ACTION**  
**OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES**

**Revised 2012**

**No. 7**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	4
1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES .....	4
2.1 COMPETITOR’S ELIGIBILITY.....	4
2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS.....	5
2.3 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE .....	5
2.4 COMPETITOR’S RESPONSIBILITY .....	5
2.5 RULE INFRINGEMENTS .....	6
2.6 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN’S AUTHORITY.....	6
2.7 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE.....	6
2.8 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS .....	8
SECTION 3: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS AND AMMUNITION.....	8
SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING RULES .....	10
SECTION 5: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	11
SECTION 6: MODE OF CONDUCTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	14
SECTION 7: COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES .....	15
SECTION 8: RANGE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	16
SECTION 9: DEFINITION OF SHOOTING POSITIONS.....	16
SECTION 10: RANGE COMMANDS.....	18
SECTION 11: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES.....	19
SECTION 12: SCORING CROSS-FIRES EXTRA SHOTS PENALTIES, ETC. ....	20
SECTION 13: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONS .....	22
SECTION 14: POSTAL COMPETITIONS .....	22
SECTION 15: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION PROFICIENCY MEDAL AWARDS.....	23
SECTION 16: GRADING .....	25
SECTION 17: MALFUNCTIONS.....	26
SECTION 18: CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS AND TROPHIES.....	27
SECTION 19: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS.....	28

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

## **LEVER ACTION**

### **NATIONAL RULES**

**Revised 2012**

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#### **SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

To broadly simulate the positions used in the field, under rifle range conditions, with a view to improving a hunter's performance.

#### **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 need to wear such a device for health reasons and 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 appointment 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 Lever Action Rifles has been agreed as following and these rules shall apply to rimfire or centrefire rifles, except in the case of the Classic Calibre event, which is exclusively for centrefire rifles.

### **3.1 “Open” Rifles (Rimfire or Centrefire)**

- 3.1.1 Any Lever Action Rifle with a wooden stock.
- 3.1.2 Any calibre or hand load or wildcat will be accepted. Pointed projectiles will not be permitted in rapid-fire events if safety is impaired. In the case of repeating rifles, in rapid fire events, the rifle must be capable of cycling all rounds from the magazine to the chamber.
- 3.1.3 Sights with the exception of scopes, magnifying devices, electronic devices and / or rubber eyepieces will be permitted.

3.1.4 The National Rimfire Event is for rimfire rifles only.

3.1.5 The National Centrefire Event is for centrefire rifles only.

### **3.2 "Classic Calibre" Rifles**

In the spirit of the classic calibre competition, the intent of this category is for the use of production factory rifles and reproductions of the same. In addition eligible rifles will comply with:

3.2.1 Any Lever Action Rifle with a two-piece wooden stock.

3.2.2 Those rifles having a detachable box magazine and/or a rotating bolt head are excluded.

3.2.3 Sights shall be of the traditional open type. Peep, screw or micrometer / vernier adjustable sights and hoods are not permitted.

3.2.4 Any mass produced factory centrefire cartridge introduced prior to the end of 1938, which has been or is currently factory chambered in any eligible lever action rifle, are eligible for this class. The authority for determining eligibility shall be: BARNES, "CARTRIDGES OF THE WORLD".

3.2.5 All repairs and replacement parts shall be kept as close as is reasonably practicable to the original design of the rifle.

3.2.6 A pre 1866 original or replica without a two piece wooden stock, chambered in a classic calibre, will be considered in the spirit of the match, and allowed to compete.

**3.3 Attachments:** Butt hooks, palm rests, hand stops, slings or other such rifle attachments are not permitted.

**3.4 Rifle:** One rifle only shall be used throughout the shooting of any one competition, except where the Range Officer can verify that, through no fault of their own, a breakage or failure of some part of a rifle, which has not been due to negligence or faulty reloading practices, prevents a competitor from completing their course of fire in their scheduled position. In which case the Range Officer shall note the time remaining for that competitor and they shall be allowed to use another rifle, provided it complies with these Rules in all aspects, and resume shooting as soon as possible or after their detail has completed firing. If the breakage or failure occurs during a burst of rapid fire and after at least one shot has been fired, then the entire number of shots for that target are to be re-shot. Under no circumstances is a competitor to be given extra shooting time over that outlined in these Rules. No sighting shots are to be allowed. It is required that the Range Officer checks the rifle for compliance as soon as time permits but prior to the completion of scoring.

- 3.5 Misfires:** In the event of a misfire with either rimfire or centrefire ammunition due to faulty ignition of the cartridge, while keeping the action closed, the competitor shall notify the Range Officer. After 30 seconds the round shall be ejected and inspected by the Range Officer. If it shows a firing point indentation another round shall be allowed. In any event other than precision, the target shall be re-shot. In events of 5 minutes a proportion of time in respect to remaining rounds will be allowed to complete the event. All other events may be reshot at competitor's discretion. (See also Section 17: Malfunctions).
- 3.6 Ammunition:** A round may not be exchanged for another except as outlined in Rule 3.5 or if a round is accidentally damaged before being loaded into the rifle to the extent that the round, if fired, may be unsafe or cause damage to the rifle. The Range Officer must supervise this exchange.

## SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING RULES

- 4.1 Spotting Scopes:** The use of spotting scopes will not be permitted.
- 4.2 Shooting Mats:** The use of shooting mats shall be permitted. The mat must be of a compressible material not more than 50 mm thick and approximately 80 cm x 200 cm in size.
- 4.3 Cushions or Seats:** The use of kneeling cushions or seats of any kind will not be permitted apart from the mat as described in Rule 4.2 with the exception of persons with disabilities as outlined in Rule 4.7.
- 4.4 Clothing:** Commercial type trap and skeet vests (sleeveless) and shotgun shooting shirts are permitted as well as clothing normally suitable for existing climatic conditions. Shooting coats, unnecessarily heavy clothing, or anything on the person that would provide artificial support, such as clothing having excess padding, or stiffening material or which restricts or supports the body in the shooting position, may not be worn. Vests that may be considered or construed to be unnecessarily heavy or to provide artificial support are permitted if they can be closed over a gauge made of 101.6 mm (4") thin wall PVC, not less than 762 mm (30") in length, passed through the entire length of the vest. The vest must also be opened or vented from the bottom edge to a point 50.8 mm (2") above the crest of the hipbone. Any dispute regarding clothing will be submitted to the Appeals Committee for final decision.
- 4.5 Boots:** Boots shall be without steel bars, wide soles, or other stiffening devices in the upper, except for steel toe protection. Specially designed shooting boots are specifically excluded.
- 4.6 Trousers:** Shooting trousers are specifically excluded. Normal street wear trousers or jeans may be worn provided they do not have fastening seams (buttons or zippers) necessary to be opened or closed or adjusted in order to get into or out of the trousers except for a fly or belt band. Any trousers or jeans worn must not restrict

normal movement of the shooter in using all of the positions for the event being contested.

The intention of Rules 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 is to ensure that competitors are wearing clothing of a type that would be worn for non-competitive shooting, i.e. normal hunting or field wear.

- 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. Competitors 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 LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 5.1** A National Lever Action Championship will be held on an annual basis.
- 5.2** These Championships are to be hosted on a rotational basis.

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

**5.4** Each National Lever Action Championship shall consist of the following events:-

5.4.1 National Rimfire Event (for Rimfire Rifles).

5.4.2 National Centrefire Event (for Centrefire Rifles).

5.4.3 National Classic Calibre Event (for Classic Calibre Rifles).

5.4.4 National State Teams Event

It is agreed that each team for this event shall consist of four (4) members and it will be the responsibility of each State and/or Territory to select their own team members.

**5.5** With the exception of the National State Teams event, only one National event is to be conducted on any day.

**5.6** The payment of one entry fee for any event will entitle the competitor to have their score for that event considered for all classes that the competitor may be eligible to enter.

**5.7** The course of fire for the events listed in Rule 5.4 to be as follows:

**5.7.1 National Rimfire Event**

5.7.1.1 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 2 details, 5 minutes per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target. Separate targets are to be used for each detail of 5 rounds.

5.7.1.2 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 2 details, 5 minutes per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target, scoring 7-10 only. Separate targets are to be used for each detail of 5 rounds. Official centres are acceptable.

5.7.1.3 25 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 2 details, 10 seconds per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target, scoring 7-10 only.

5.7.1.4 Four (4) additional details of 5 rounds are to be shot. Separate targets may be used for each detail of 5 rounds. If less than four (4) targets are used, a maximum of 5 rounds x 2 details to be shot on any one target. The additional targets, distance, shooting position and timing are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club and must be included in any advertising relating to the National Lever Action Championships three (3) months in advance.

5.7.1.5 Time limits for each of the additional targets to be a maximum of 5 minutes per detail for each target.

5.7.1.6 The total number of rounds for the National Rimfire Event shall be fifty (50) rounds.

## 5.7.2 **National Centrefire Event**

5.7.2.1 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 2 details, 5 minutes per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target. Separate targets are to be used for each detail of 5 rounds.

5.7.2.2 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 2 details, 5 minutes per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target, scoring 7-10 only. Separate targets are to be used for each detail of 5 rounds. Official centres are acceptable.

5.7.2.3 50 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 2 details, 15 seconds per detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target.

5.7.2.4 Four (4) additional details of 5 rounds are to be shot. Separate targets may be used for each detail of 5 rounds. If less than four (4) targets are used, a maximum of 5 rounds x 2 details to be shot on any one target. The additional targets, distance, shooting position and timing are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club and must be included in any advertising relating to the National Lever Action Championships three (3) months in advance.

5.7.2.5 Time limits for each of the additional targets to be a maximum of 5 minutes per detail for each target.

5.7.2.6 The total number of rounds for the National Centrefire Event shall be fifty (50) rounds.

## 5.7.3 **National Classic Calibre Event.**

5.7.3.1 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Classic Calibre Medal Target) 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on the small bear target (LA 2).

5.7.3.2 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Classic Calibre Medal Target) 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on the fox head target (LA 3).

5.7.3.3 Five (5) additional targets are to be shot. 5 rounds x 1 detail on each additional target. The five (5) additional targets, distance, shooting position and timing are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club and must be included in any advertising relating to the National Championships three (3) months in advance.

5.7.3.4 Time limits for each of the five (5) additional targets to be a maximum of 5 minutes per detail for each target.

- 5.7.3.5 The Classic Calibre course of fire to be used is the same as the Classic Calibre Postal Shoot in the same calendar year.
- 5.7.3.6 The total number of rounds for the National Classic Calibre Event shall be thirty five (35) rounds.
- 5.7.4 National State Teams Event**
- 5.7.4.1 Each team shall consist of four (4) members. Names of the members and targets they are to shoot are to be provided prior to the commencement of the event.
- 5.7.4.2 This event is to be shot on four (4) targets. Five (5) rounds to be shot on each target. The four (4) targets, distances, shooting positions and timing are to be nominated by the Host Branch / Club and must be included in any advertising relating to the National Lever Action Championships three (3) months in advance.
- 5.7.4.3 Each member of the team will shoot one (1) detail of five (5) rounds only.
- 5.7.4.4 Time limits for each of the four (4) targets to be a maximum of 5 minutes per detail for each target.
- 5.7.4.5 The winning team for this event will be decided by each of the team's aggregate score from the four (4) targets shot.
- 5.7.4.6 The total number of rounds for the National State Teams Event shall be twenty (20) rounds.

## **SECTION 6: MODE OF CONDUCTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 6.1 Rifle and Equipment Check:** Prior to the commencement of the competition each competitor's rifle shall be checked to ensure compliance with Sections 3 and 4 of these Rules. Classic Calibre rifles shall be checked by a person with expertise in this field.
- 6.2 Position and Detail:** The Host Branch / Club shall draw by ballot prior to the commencement of each event a competitor's firing position and detail number. Left-handed shooters may be given the last position/s on the firing line in each detail.
- 6.3 Sighting Shots:** A minimum 30 minute practice detail will be allowed for competitors before the commencement of each competition. Once the competition has begun, no shots will be allowed to be fired from the rifle used in the competition during breaks, i.e. waiting time between details, changing of targets etc.
- 6.4 Briefing:** Competitors shall be called together prior to the commencement of the competition and the National Chairman or appointed nominee will brief them on the following:-

- 6.4.1 Timing procedures and the penalties in these Rules for timing infringements.
- 6.4.2 The penalties in these Rules for cross-fires and extra shots on targets.
- 6.4.3 The procedure outlined in these Rules for appeals, the fee to be employed and the names of the members of the Appeals Committee.
- 6.4.4 The procedure for dealing with misfires outlined in these Rules.
- 6.4.5 The procedure for dealing with a stuck live round.
- 6.5 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 the number of rounds displayed is correct and that all shooters are ready, and then proceed with the course of fire.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 Targets:** All targets used for National Championships are to be approved by the Lever Action Sub Committee and ratified by the SSAA National Board, and be printed on target grade paper.
- 6.8 Approved Targets:** The Discipline Chairman shall provide a list (with catalogue numbers) of all targets approved under Rule 6.7

## **SECTION 7: COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 7.1 Hand loading:** It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all safe practices for the hand loading of ammunition are diligently observed.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Rules:** The Host Branch / Club must conduct championships in accordance with this Rule Book.
- 7.4 Rifle Compliance:** A competitor is to ensure that any rifle used under the provisions of Section 3 complies with these Rules.

- 7.5 Coaching:** There is to be no outside assistance of any nature, including spotting, whilst a competitor is on the firing line at championships.

## **SECTION 8: RANGE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 8.1 Safety:** The range must meet all normal State or Territories safety requirements.
- 8.2 Range / Post Requirements:** Host Branch / Club must have a range with facilities consisting of:
- 100 metre Range
  - 50 metre Range
  - 25 metre Range
- The tolerances for these distances to be plus or minus 1% and post rest facilities for a minimum of ten (10) competitors.
- 8.3 Posts:** For post rest positions, posts are to be provided to the following specifications: A "post" is defined as a length of wood, pipe, or other suitable material, either round, square, or rectangular, which is firmly erected vertically in the ground or shooting station of concrete etc. Minimum dimensions should be as follows:
- Round post: 75 mm diameter.
  - Square post: 75 mm x 75 mm.
  - Rectangular post: 50 mm x 75 mm.
  - Height of post to be a minimum of 1.8 metres.
- 8.4 Target Numbers:** These shall be positioned on the target frames 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.
- 8.5 Stationary Backers:** These are to be provided, and set at 2 metres or as near as practical, behind the target line and at the target height.
- 8.6 Scoreboards:** Scores are to be displayed in plain view of competitors throughout the competition. The scores shall be updated frequently.

## **SECTION 9: DEFINITION OF SHOOTING POSITIONS**

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

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 Sitting:** Sitting with no part of the body or limbs to touch any external support or object.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Any Field Position:** Any position, including post rest positions which could reasonably be expected to be adopted in the field. Benchrest stands, sandbags, or front or rear rifle supports are not permitted.
- 9.8 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.
- 9.9 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.
- 9.10 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 10: RANGE COMMANDS

### 10.1 Slow Fire Targets starting position and procedure:

10.1.1 **"Load"**: The shooter may load all 5 rounds in the magazine only. No rounds are to be chambered until the order "Fire" has been given. The Range Officer will ask "Is any shooter not ready?" and if there is no reply within 3 seconds, the command to commence fire will be given.

10.1.2 **"Fire"**: The commencement of the firing (shooting) is to be taken from the word "Fire" if verbal commands are being used and checked with a stop watch or electronic timer for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.

10.1.3 **"Cease"**: After the prescribed time has elapsed, the "Cease" command will be given. The word "Cease" will be given at the expiration of the elapsed time if verbal commands are being used.

### 10.2 Rapid Fire starting position and procedure using stationary or turning targets.

#### 10.2.1 Basic commands:

10.2.1.1 **"Load"**: The shooter may load all 5 rounds in the magazine. You are NOT to chamber any until instructed by the Range Officer. Where the magazine will only hold 4 rounds, the shooter may chamber one round, but the hammer must be down. At all times, the muzzle of the rifle must be pointed down range. The Range Officer will allow the shooters 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.

10.2.1.2 **"Ready"**: At the ready call you may chamber one round; if you already have one in the chamber, you may cock the hammer. The Range Officer will then proceed with the commands relevant to either the stationary or turning targets.

#### 10.2.2 Stationary Targets:

10.2.2.1 **"Fire"**: The commencement of the firing (shooting) is to be taken from the word "Fire" if verbal commands are being used and checked with a stop watch or electronic timer for the expiration of the required time, depending on which event is being contested at the time.

10.2.2.2 **"Cease"**: After the prescribed time has elapsed, the "Cease" command will be given. The word "Cease" will be given at the expiration of the elapsed time when verbal commands are being used.

### 10.2.3 Turning Targets:

10.2.3.1 **"Watch Your Front"**: When this command is given, the target frames will be turned side on to the competitors. At the expiration of 7 seconds, the target frames will be turned back to face the competitors and this indicates the commencement of the timing of the target being shot.

10.2.3.2 **"Time Elapsed"**: When the time allowed for the target has elapsed, the target frames will be turned side on to the competitors. The turning of the target frames may be carried out manually or automatically.

### 10.3 General Commands:

10.3.1 **Bell or Horn**: A bell or horn may be used instead of verbal commands.

10.3.2 **"Fire"**: The word "Fire" being the operative word in each verbal command.

10.3.3 **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.

10.3.4 **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.

10.3.4.1 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"**.

10.3.4.2 Command given to move to next firing position:

**"Range clear, Keep your action open and move to the next firing position"**.

10.3.4.3 In the event an emergency cease fire is required the command is:-

**"Cease Fire"**: Any competitor can use this command for safety reasons.

## SECTION 11: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES

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

**11.1 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.

- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 Target detail:** A target detail shall comprise a minimum of two (2) persons who preferably are non-competitors and experienced in their duties.
- 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.
- 11.4 Scoring Staff:** A minimum of two (2) and these being one Head Scorer and one Check Scorer.
- 11.4.1 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 and supervise the scoring in accordance with Section 12 of these Rules. The Head Scorer is the only one to insert the gauge, which will be done only once per shot hole and the decision reached between the Head Scorer and the Check Scorer and if necessary the Appeals Committee, shall be final.
- 11.4.2 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 12) before posting the scores. Scores and shot targets to be posted as soon as possible for inspection by competitors.

## **SECTION 12: SCORING CROSS-FIRES EXTRA SHOTS PENALTIES, ETC.**

- 12.1 Scoring:** Only the maximum of shots, as allowed under Section 5 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.
- 12.1.1** 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.
- 12.1.2** 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.

- 12.2 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:
- 12.2.1 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.
  - 12.2.2 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, unless proved a cross-fire by the stationary backing boards.
- 12.3 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.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 Turning Targets:** When scoring a target shot on turning frames, any shot that produces an elongated hole more than 1½ times the calibre, is not to be counted in the score for that target.
- 12.6 Infringements:** In the event of a combination of the above infringements, they will be dealt with in the following order:-
- 12.6.1 Cross fires refer Rule 12.2
  - 12.6.2 Extra shots refer Rule 12.3
  - 12.6.3 Time penalties refer Rule 12.4
- 12.7 Inspection of Targets:** Upon completion of a single target competitors in that detail shall be permitted to review their respective target prior to shooting their next target. All competition targets are to be available for inspection after scoring and are not to be removed from the inspection area unless, they are required by the Appeals Committee or the final results have been posted and no protests are outstanding.
- 12.8** All targets shall be given a numerical scoring value commencing at 10 and an x- ring included as part of the target. Any target area without a numerical value to be scored with the next descending value.
- 12.9** Where a target has a defined feature, it shall be given the same value as the scoring area it occupies.

## **SECTION 13: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION CHAMPIONS**

- 13.1** The National Lever Action Champions will be known as follows:
- 13.1.1 National Lever Action Rimfire Champion.
  - 13.1.2 National Lever Action Centrefire Champion.
  - 13.1.3 National Lever Action Classic Calibre Champion.
  - 13.1.4 National Lever Action State Team Champions.
  - 13.1.5 National Lever Action Two Gun Champion. (Rimfire and Centrefire combined)
  - 13.1.6 National Lever Action Three Gun Champion. (Rimfire, Centrefire and Classic Calibre combined)
- 13.2** The winner(s) of each section of the National Lever Action Championships will be determined by the addition of scores of all advertised events shot on the day(s) of the championships.
- 13.3** **State Teams:** It is agreed that each team shall consist of four (4) members and it will be the responsibility of each State and/or Territory to select their own team members. Each team member shall shoot one of the specified Team Event targets according to the position and timing specifications as advertised by the Host Branch / Club. The team score is the sum of the four team members' individual aggregates.

## **SECTION 14: POSTAL COMPETITIONS**

- 14.1** Two (2) postal competitions will be held on an annual basis and they are as follows:
- 14.1.1 National Lever Action Classic Calibre Postal Shoot. To be shot during the month of March. International entries extended by one month.
  - 14.1.2 National Lever Action Open Postal Shoot. To be shot during the month of August.
- 14.2** Each postal shoot will be made up of teams of five (5) competitors.
- 14.3** Results are to be forwarded to the National Lever Action Chairman no later than the 15th day of the following month that each postal shoot is scheduled to be held.

#### **14.4 Course of fire is as follows:**

##### **14.4.1 Classic Calibre Postal Shoot**

14.4.1.1 The course of fire is to be advised at the National Lever Action Sub-committee Meeting held in the previous year.

14.4.1.2 The Host Branch / Club for the National Lever Action Championships in the following year will be responsible for setting the course of fire.

14.4.1.3 In the event that the course of fire is not advised within one (1) month of the required time, the National Lever Action Chairman shall set the course of fire. The Host Branch / Club will be advised accordingly.

14.4.1.4 The course of fire set for the postal shoot will also be used for the National Lever Action Classic Calibre Championship for the same year.

14.4.1.5 The course of fire is to be the same as described in Rule 5.7.3

##### **14.4.2 Open Postal Shoot**

The course of fire is as follows:

14.4.2.1 Target 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target.

14.4.2.2 Target 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target) 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target (Scoring 7 - 10 only).

14.4.2.3 Target 3 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 1 detail, 15 second detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target.

14.4.2.4 Target 4 at 25 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 1 detail, 10 second detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target (Scoring 7 - 10 only).

## **SECTION 15: NATIONAL LEVER ACTION PROFICIENCY MEDAL AWARDS**

**15.1** A Lever Action proficiency medal award can only be won whilst shooting in an SSAA lever action competition, and may only be obtained by a financial SSAA member.

**15.2** There will be four (4) proficiency medal awards:-

**15.2.1 Bronze Proficiency Medal Award**

**15.2.2 Silver Proficiency Medal Award**

### 15.2.3 **Gold Proficiency Medal Award**

### 15.2.4 **Diamond Proficiency Medal Award**

**15.3** A shooter may only qualify for a silver proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a bronze proficiency medal award; a gold proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a silver proficiency medal award; and a diamond proficiency medal award if they have previously shot a gold proficiency medal award. A shooter may only qualify for each proficiency medal award once.

**15.4** National Lever Action proficiency medal awards are available for open or classic calibre events.

#### 15.4.1 **Open proficiency medal award targets**

The proficiency medals will be awarded for an aggregate score for the 2 (two) targets as follows:

15.4.1.1 Target 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target.

15.4.1.2 Target 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on a 50 metre slow fire pistol target. (Scoring 7 -10 only). Official centres are acceptable.

#### 15.4.2 **Classic calibre proficiency medal award targets**

The proficiency medals will be awarded for an aggregate score for the two targets as follows:

15.4.2.1 Target 1 at 100 metres - Any Field Position 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on the small bear target. (LA 2).

15.4.2.2 Target 2 at 50 metres - Standing Unsupported 5 rounds x 1 detail, 5 minute detail on the fox head target (LA 3).

**15.5** For both open and classic calibre:

An aggregate score of 75 plus will qualify for a Bronze proficiency medal award.

An aggregate score of 85 plus will qualify for a Silver proficiency medal award.

An aggregate score of 95 plus will qualify for a Gold proficiency medal award.

And a possible of 100 will qualify for a Diamond proficiency medal award.

- 15.6** Lever Action award claims are to be verified and signed by the Range Officer or Lever Action delegate, and submitted to the Lever Action Awards Secretary.
- 15.7** A National Junior Proficiency medal award is available for issue by the National Lever Awards Secretary upon a Junior shooting an aggregate score of 65 plus on the same targets as the lever action open proficiency medal award. A claim form must be completed and forwarded to the Lever Action Awards Secretary. This junior proficiency medal can be awarded only once and is not a pre-requisite for awarding lever action open proficiency medal awards to Juniors.

## **SECTION 16: GRADING**

- 16.1 Establishing Grades:** An ungraded competitor is deemed to be in the highest grade for the match contested on the day in which there are three (3) competitors until they have completed that match upon which a grade will be given based on that score. For a competitor to go up a grade they must equal or exceed the qualifying score on three (3) occasions (in the next shoot they are in the higher grade) and there is no time restraint on this.
- 16.2 Downgrading:** For a competitor to go down a grade they must do so by applying to the National Chairman in writing with due reason and supported by documentary evidence (i.e. score sheets, medical statements etc.) that will help the Chairman to reach a decision.
- 16.3 Lack of Grading Evidence:** If a current grading card or evidence of previous scores cannot be produced at nomination prior to the registered championship, the competitor will be placed in the highest grade for which there are three (3) shooters competing.
- 16.4 Nomination to a Higher Grade:** A competitor can elect to shoot in a higher grade at the time of nomination prior to a registered championship, provided that there are three (3) shooters already competing in the higher grade.
- 16.5 Grading Cards:** All details shall be entered on a grading card and signed by the Range Officer or delegate. No alterations will be allowed. Grading cards are available through the National Office.
- 16.6** Targets for grading are as follows:-
- 16.6.1 Open 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Medal Target) 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Medal Target).
- 16.6.2 Classic Calibre 100 metres - Any Field Position (National Classic Medal Target) 50 metres - Standing Unsupported (National Classic Medal Target).

**16.7** Grades are as follows:

**16.7.1 Open**

AAA Grade	96 - 100
AA Grade	86 - 95
A Grade	76 - 85
B Grade	66 - 75
C Grade	0 – 65

**16.7.2 Classic Calibre**

AAA Grade	91 - 100
AA Grade	81 - 90
A Grade	66 - 80
B Grade	51 - 65
C Grade	0 – 50

## **SECTION 17: MALFUNCTIONS**

See also Rule 3.5 Misfires

**17.1 Malfunction:** Something that impedes the firing of the rifle each time it is cycled, i.e. The same malfunction must happen each and every time the rifle is cycled (e.g. a broken firing pin or spring etc.), this rules out operator error.

**17.1.1 At Fault:** The competitor must be considered at fault if:

17.1.1.1 The safety catch has not been released.

17.1.1.2 The rifle was not loaded or was loaded with the wrong type of ammunition.

17.1.1.3 The breech was not closed all the way.

17.1.1.4 For centrefire only, the rifle is found in the discharged condition, the chamber is found to contain a cartridge of the type the competitor ordinarily uses, showing a clear impression of the firing pin, but the projectile has not left the barrel.

17.1.1.5 A jam occurs due to incorrect cycling of the action.

**17.1.2 Not at Fault:** The competitor must not be considered at fault if:

17.1.2.1 For rimfire only, the rifle is found in the discharged condition, the chamber is found to contain a cartridge of the type the competitor ordinarily uses, showing a clear impression of the firing pin, but the projectile has not left the barrel.

- 17.1.2.2 The reason for not firing was caused by a malfunction of the rifle, which is not likely to have been caused by the competitor, or could not have been prevented by the competitor.
- 17.1.3 **Sights:** If the rifle sights come loose during an event because they were not properly tightened, all shots must be scored. Loose rifle sights are not grounds for a re-shoot.
- 17.2 Deeming rifles and/or ammunition unserviceable:** The Range Officer may deem any suspect rifle or ammunition unserviceable. 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.
- 17.3 Misfires:** In the event of a misfire, a competitor must not open the action of the rifle for at least 30 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.
- 17.4 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
- 17.5 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 18: CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS AND TROPHIES**

- 18.1 Championship Medals:** The National Chairman will be responsible for organising the National Championship medals for the first three placings in both Open and Junior categories as outlined in Section 13, of the Rules.
- 18.2 Perpetual Trophies:** The National Chairman will be responsible for organising all perpetual trophies to be available for presentation at each National Championship.
- 18.3 Hall of Fame:** A Lever Action Hall of Fame Award shall be conducted on a point score basis in the three classes of Lever Action: 2 Gun Lever Action Aggregate and the 3 Gun Lever Action Aggregate at the Australian Lever Action Championships.
- 18.3.1 For points to apply the minimum entry number per class will be 15 and a minimum of 10 in the Two and Three Gun Aggregates. There must also be a minimum of 3 States competing in all the above.

18.3.2 Points will be allocated as follows but only after the above mentioned provisions and parameters are met:-

A class aggregate win 1 point.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the 2 Gun Aggregate 3, 2, and 1 point respectively.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the 3 Gun Aggregate 3, 2, and 1 point respectively.

18.3.3 The maximum number of points able to be awarded at any one Australian Championship is 15 (9 to any one competitor).

18.3.4 A competitor must amass a total of 15 points for entry into the "Lever Action Hall of Fame".

## **SECTION 19: LIST OF SSAA APPROVED LEVER ACTION TARGETS**

- LA1 Buff Head Target
- LA2 Bear Target (Small)
- LA3 Fox Head Target
- LA4 Goat Target
- LA5 Sitting Rabbit (Small)
- LA6 Qld Pig
- LA7 Feral Cat
- LA8 Crow (small)
- LA9 Elephant
- LA10 Running Rabbit
- LA11 Running Fox
- LA12 Sitting Rabbit Large
- LA13 Duck
- LA14 WA Running Boar
- 13M Official 50M slowfire Pistol
- 14N Centre only of 13M
- LA15 SA Cats Head
- LA16 SA Turkey
- LA17 WA Cat
- LA18 WA Running Fox

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