

NATIONAL SMALL-BORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Visually Impaired Air Rifle Shooting Rules

Throughout the rules, 'he', 'him', 'his' and similar words are used as impersonal pronouns without any intended implication of gender.

The rules refer to a right-handed shooter and the reverse applies to the left-handed shooter.

Postal items relating to acoustic shooting competitions attract no postal charge under the Royal Mail 'Articles for the Blind' scheme.

1 General

Shooters, club officials and SHC (Spotter/Helper/Coach) should be familiar with and abide by competition rules, general rules for acoustic air rifle shooting, club rules and regulations specific to the range or room used.

Note that some competitions have specific rules. Such rules always take precedence over the general rules that follow. Club officials, shooters and helpers should ensure they know which rules to apply before competition starts.

2 Range

Shooting is conducted at 10 metres, measured from the target face. The feet of the shooter and wheels of any wheelchair, if used, shall be behind the firing line.

Mobile phones are not permitted on the range.

3 Equipment

3.1 Air rifle: any make and cocking action with a calibre of 4.5mm (.177 in) and maximum muzzle energy of 6 footpounds. Air rifles with multi-shot magazines may not be used in their multi-shot function. Palm rests and butt hooks are prohibited. The weight of the rifle shall not exceed 6kg including the sighting equipment and all accessories attached to the rifle but excluding any cables which are only attached to the rifle through electrical plug connectors.

3.2 Sights: one audio sighting system that creates a sound which the shooter can relate to the point of aim on the approved target. The sound shall be transmitted to the shooter through persona equipment the shooter chooses. The sound volume shall be no greater than the shooter needs and shall not disturb shooters, helpers or officials on adjacent firing points.

3.2.1 An offset red dot device may be fitted to the rifle to aid the helper/coach in ensuring the shooter finds the correct target. The offset fall of red dot must be outside the perimeter of the target card.

3.3 **Pellets:** any make but must be flat-headed wad cutter type to assist in accurate scoring of target cards.

3.4 **Targets:** NSRA AIR B20/96 where Swarovski sights are used and Air 4/98 where EcoAims sights are used.

4 Clothing

Bespoke rifle jackets/trousers/shooting boots may be worn for unsupported rifle shooting. If used in the seated position the jacket must not touch the seat or chair being used.

5 Shooting position

5.1 Supported

5.1.1 **Standing** - with the rifle supported on a Belgian spring stand.

5.1.2 **Seated** - using a stool or seated in a wheel chair without back support with the rifle supported on a Belgian spring stand.

5.2 Unsupported

5.2.1 **Standing** - without any support, sometimes known as 'offhand'.

5.2.2 **Seated** - using a stool or seated in a wheelchair that provides no back support or other means of support.

5.3 Shooters of short stature may stand on a level platform on the firing point.

5.4 Back support that is required for medical reasons is permitted in all positions.

5.5 The shooter may not touch the bench or lean against it while in the shooting position.

5.6 Shooters unable to adopt the required position may apply to the league secretary for special permission to modify their position and/or equipment or have a valid NSRA Exemption Certificate.

(Note: To apply for an NSRA Exemption Certificate, the individual must submit details and photograph of the modified position/equipment with an explanation as to why the modification is necessary to the Referees Committee of the NSRA)

5.7 Belgian spring stand

The fore-end of the rifle stock should touch the stand 'cradle' at the point of balance +/- 5 cm

At all times during shooting, the Belgian stand should be upright and not bent excessively in any direction that may provide additional support to the rifle.

The non-trigger hand may not hold/grip the Belgian stand or hold/grip the rifle forward of the stand.

The non-trigger hand may be used to guide/steady the rifle by being placed on the stock or be placed in a pocket, on a belt or remain free.

6 Spotter/Helper/Coach (SHC)

The SHC can assist the shooter to find the target zone prior to shooting or, when requested, may assist the shooter to re-locate the target zone if the shooter has lost contact with it.

The SHC may load and close the breech, adjust sights (informing the shooter of the adjustment made) and change targets, as agreed with the shooter.

He should ensure that competition cards have been prepared properly before shooting and they are shot in the correct order.

The SHC may not coach a shooter or give advice during the firing of competition shots after any practice cards are completed. Shooters can ask a question of or instruct the SHC during their competition series.

SHCs may not physically adjust the shooter's stance during a competition series.

SHCs and shooters may not disturb adjacent SHCs and shooters.

7 Competition entries

An average may be required for shooters entering a competition. Most commonly, this is the average of the best five of the last six 10-shot series that were shot under similar conditions to the competition. The average, calculated to one decimal place, is submitted on the entry form (not a figure rounded to the nearest whole number).

Shooters who have no previous competition scores should shoot six such 10-shot series, properly witnessed, to set an average of the best five scores.

Competition averages shall be certified correct on the entry form by the designated club official.

Entrants will be arranged by entered average for league competitions that are arranged into divisions/classes. No promotion/demotion between divisions of a league occurs at the end of a season.

8 Conduct of competitions

8.1 Match period

Competition shooting commences on receipt of stickers. Stickers are applied to the top right corner of the reverse of a target before shooting commences. Targets must be shot in sticker number order. A competition sticker must never be removed once applied.

Two shots are fired at each target, unless specified otherwise in the competition rules. Scores are reported per 10-shot series, each series ex 100.

Final dates for shooting specific rounds or stages are given in the competition schedule. Firing after the final date for the round or stage is not permitted.

An extension may be agreed by the league secretary if a club informs him that it has problems beyond its control.

A club official shall inform the scorer if a shooter withdraws from the competition.

8.2 Practice/sighting cards

Practice cards may be shot before a competition series but not during it.

Practice cards are identified by having the top right hand corner cut off, about 25mm each way from that corner.

8.3 Signing shot targets

The shooter shall sign the reverse of all competition cards after shooting, to certify that he has complied with all the rules. The league secretary should be informed if any shooter is unable to produce a reliable signature.

8.4 Witnessing shot targets

All shot competition targets and those shot to establish an average for competition shall be witnessed after the shooter signs them. The witness (a club official or SHC) adds his signature and date to certify that he was present when the card was shot and that the shooter has complied with all the rules.

A witness may not witness his own shoot in any competition.

The witness or club official shall also provide the scorer with a written explanation of any damage to the target or irregularity that occurred, otherwise it will not be scored.

8.5 Targets damaged before shooting

The damaged target should be secured back-to-back with a new target. With the new card facing the intended shooter, both cards are shot through and the

whole submitted for scoring. The scorer confirms the presence of the original sticker before scoring.

8.6 Gauging of and interference with shot holes is prohibited.

8.7 Sending cards for scoring

The dispatcher is responsible for ensuring that a package of shot cards is adequately wrapped. He should also obtain a certificate of posting (free of charge).

A 'signed for' postal service should not be used.

For cards delayed or lost in the post, production of a certificate of posting dated no more than 24 hours after the final date for shooting the round or stage will permit a re-shoot with reissued stickers on request to the league secretary.

9 Scoring and results

Shot cards arriving for scoring more than seven days after the final date for the round or stage will not be scored unless a certificate of posting has been obtained in accordance with 8.7 above..

By prior agreement with the league secretary, clubs with NSRA-accredited scorers may be permitted to score cards locally and submit scores. They will keep shot cards in safe storage until the final competition challenge period has expired and submit cards to the central scorer as requested.

A club official may challenge a competition score within 14 days of publication of the results.

9.1 Excess shots

9.1.1 More shots than specified in the series: the specified number of shots of lowest value in the series are scored and one penalty point applied for each excess shot.

9.1.2 Excess shots on a target but not more than specified for the series: all shots are scored and one penalty point applied for each extra shot on a target.

10 Resolving ties

10.1 Ties for trophies and prizes in kind

10.1.1 League competitions tied on match points are resolved by, in order

10.1.1.1 Higher aggregate gun score in the whole competition;

10.1.1.2 Higher number of match points in matches between the tied teams/individuals;

10.1.1.3 Higher aggregate gun score in matches between the tied teams/individuals.

10.1.2 Other competitions (stage, knock-out, own-start, etc)

Rules will be drawn up as such competitions develop.

11 Discipline

Suspected deliberate infringement of rules and regulations and suspected dishonest, discreditable or dangerous conduct will be reported to the NSRA for investigation. Anyone permitting such infringement and/or conduct is liable to similar investigation. Disqualification and suspension from competition may result.

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