

# NRA SPORTER AIR RIFLE POSITION RULES

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## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION Official Rules for Sporter Air Rifle Position Matches

These rules establish uniform standards for NRA sanctioned Sporter Air Rifle Position. Where alternatives are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations. The rules do not apply to International Shooting Union type competition. They supersede all earlier editions and remain in effect until specifically superseded.

Tournament sponsors may not alter these rules. If sponsors require additional rules for special conditions, the additions must be fully set forth in the program for the competition concerned.

The arrangement and rule numbering systems are such that corresponding rules for other types of NRA competition are correspondingly located and numbered in the Rule Books for those competitions. Gaps in the sequence of rule numbers result from there being a rule in one or more of the other Rule Books that does not apply in this book.

Recommendations for rule changes may be forwarded to the Air Gun Committee in care of the National Rifle Association.

NOTE Rules in which major changes have been made since publication of the previous Rule Book are marked thus: ● (1.1).

Click on the Section number to go to that Section.

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## 1. NRA COMPETITION

**1.0 NRA Competition** - Competition which must be authorized in advance of firing by the National Rifle Association. The program, range facilities and officials must comply with standards established by the NRA.

**1.1 Sanctioned Tournament** - A sanctioned tournament is a series of matches covered by an Official Program. Such matches may be all individual matches, all team matches or a combination of both which must be conducted by an NRA affiliated club or organization. They may all be fired matches or a combination of fired and aggregate matches. A tournament may be conducted on one day, successive days, or may provide for intervening days between portions of the tournament, such as tournaments programmed for more than one weekend.

**1.2 Authorization** - Before being publicized in programs or otherwise, the sponsoring organization of each type of competition mentioned in Rule 1.6 shall have agreed to comply with the current regulations for such competition, and shall have received notice from the NRA that the application for competition has been authorized.

**1.3 Rules** - The local sponsor of each type of competition must agree to conduct the authorized competition according to NRA Rules, except as these Rules have been modified by the NRA in the General Regulations for that type of competition.

**1.4 General Regulations** - The local sponsor of each type of competition must agree to comply with the General Regulations published by the NRA for the competition concerned. The General Regulations may be found in the back of this book. See Appendix.

**1.5 Refusal or Withdrawal of NRA Authorization** - The NRA may refuse to authorize or may withdraw its authorization for any competition which cannot, or does not, comply with the requirements for that competition.

**1.6 Types of Tournament** - The types of tournaments listed below are those which are sanctioned by the NRA in its competitive shooting program:

- (a) International Matches - Arranged by the NRA with the recognized national shooting organization(s) of the countries concerned. The Officials thereof are appointed by the NRA.
- (b) Sectional Championships-Arranged between the NRA and a local sponsoring organization.
- (c) State Championships-Annual tournaments authorized and/or conducted by State Rifle and/or Pistol Associations affiliated with the NRA. Such State Associations may, if desired, authorize local organizations to sponsor and conduct State Championships. In states where there is no NRA affiliated State Association, the NRA may authorize a local organization to sponsor and conduct the State Championship.
- (d) Registered Tournaments-National Records may only be established in Registered Tournaments (Rule 17.1). All competitors in Registered Tournaments must be individual members of the NRA, except for Juniors (Rules 2.3, 2.3.1 and 2.3.2), who may be either members of NRA Affiliated Junior Clubs or individual members of the NRA. Match Sponsors may require all competitors to be NRA members if specified in the program.
- (e) Approved Tournaments-May be authorized by the NRA after application has been filed by the local NRA affiliated member organization which will act as the sponsor. Application forms are available from NRA on request.
- (f) Sanctioned Leagues-(shoulder-to-shoulder or postal) May be authorized by the NRA after application has been filed by a local group or organization. Application forms are available from NRA on request. Sanctioned League scores are used for classification.
- (g) Postal Matches-Organized by the NRA and publicized to and regulations for the benefit of both the tournament officials and the competitors.
- (h) Special Tournament - May be sanctioned by the NRA for types of shooting not otherwise part of the NRA program.
- (i) State and Senior Games - Tournaments which are part of the State and Senior Games program. Such

tournaments are not charged fees, nor will any scores fired be used for classification. A simplified sanctioning procedure may be used, and the events will be listed in Coming Events with the only contact being the State Coordinator.

### **1.7 Types of Matches**

- (a) Match - A complete event as indicated in the program for the awarding of certain specific prizes. A match may consist of one or of several stages. It may, in the case of aggregate matches, indicate the scores fired in several subsidiary matches.
- (b) Stage - A portion of a match which consists of one or more strings fired in one position, time allowance, or target.
- (c) Open Match - A match open to anyone, except if so stated in the program. An open match may be limited to one or any combination of the following:
  - (1) United States citizens;
  - (2) members of the National Rifle Association of America;or
  - (3) non-U.S. citizens who are members in good standing of their respective National Shooting Federations or Associations. (Rule 2. 1. 1).
- (d) Restricted Match-A match in which competition is limited to specified groups, e.g., participants in Jaycee Shooter Education, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, juniors, women, police, etc., or to specific classes, e.g.; Masters, Experts, Sharpshooters, Marksman, etc.
- (e) Classified Match - A match in which awards are given to the winners and to the highest competitor in several specified classes such as Masters, Experts, Sharpshooters, Marksman. The classification of competitors may be accomplished by the National Classification System (Sec. 19) or by other means. The Program for classified matches must specify the groups or classes in which awards will be made.
- (f) Invitational Match - A match in which participation is limited to those who have been invited to compete.
- (g) Squadded Individual Match - A match in which each competitor is assigned a definite relay and target by the Statistical Office. Failure to report on the proper relay or firing point forfeits the right to fire. All entries must be made before firing commences in that match, except when otherwise stated in the tournament program.
- (h) Unsquadded Individual Match - A match in which the competitor is not assigned a definite relay and target by the Statistical Office. The competitor reports to the Range Officer within the time limits specified in the program and is then assigned to a target and a relay in which to fire.
- (i) Re-Entry Match - A match in which the competitor is permitted to fire more than one score for record; one or more of the highest scores being considered to determine the relative rank of competitors. The number of scores which may be fired, and the number of high scores to be considered in deciding the relative rank of competitors must be specified in the program. Scores fired in these matches shall not be used for classification purposes.
- (j) Team Match - A match in which the scores of two or more shooters are added together to produce the team score. The team must shoot together as a unit unless the program specifically provides otherwise.
- (k) Squadded Team Match - A match in which the teams are assigned a definite time to fire. Teams may be assigned one or more adjacent targets. All entries must be made before firing commences in that match. The entire team must report and fire as a unit.
- (l) Unsquadded Team Match - A match in which the teams may report at the firing line at any time within the limits specified in the program, targets being assigned by the Range Officer. The entire team must report and fire as a unit, unless the program provides otherwise.

(m) Aggregate Match - An aggregate of the scores from two or more matches. This may be an aggregate of match stages, individual matches, team matches, or any combination, provided the tournament program clearly states the matches which will comprise the aggregate. Entries in aggregate matches must be made before the competitor commences firing in any of the matches making up the aggregate match.

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

All tournament sponsors are urged to give special consideration to the needs of news media personnel in order to achieve maximum publicity for the competition. Public news media personnel representing print and/or broadcast should be given every consideration and cooperation in keeping with the proper conduct of the competition.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS

**Eligibility of Competitors** - The conditions of a match shall prescribe the eligibility of competitors, team or individuals, in accordance with Rule 1.6 and/or the definitions contained in Section 2. Any limitation of eligibility to compete must be stated in the match program.

### INDIVIDUALS

**2.1 Members of the National Rifle Association** - Any individual member including Benefactors, Patrons, Endowment, Life, Annual, Associate, Non-Resident and Junior members.

**2.1.1 Non-U.S. Citizens** - Non-U.S. Citizens who are also Non-Residents, who are not members of the National Rifle Association of America, but who are members in good standing of their own National Associations or Federations, and have adequate proof of such membership in hand, may compete in any NRA Sanctioned Tournament, unless further restrictions are imposed by conditions stated in the program.

**2.2 Civilian** - Any civilian including all members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC, NROTC and AFROTC), personnel of the State Security Forces (e.g. State Guard organizations having no federal recognition), retired members of each of the several services comprising the Armed Forces of the United States, and members and former members entitled to receive pay, retirement pay, retainer pay or equivalent pay, are classified as civilians except as noted in the example below. All competitors who are enrolled undergraduates of any of the services academies will be considered as civilians and may compete in collegiate and ROTC categories.

Individuals of any Reserve or National Guard component who, during the present calendar year, have not competed as National Guard (2.5) or Regular Service (2.6) or Reserve component (2.7) and have not been provided Service support for competition (in the form of firearms, ammunition, payment of travel or other expenses), wholly or in part, may fire as civilians. The provision of firearms and ammunition for a specific competition (e.g., National Matches or CPRPFS Regional Leg Matches), when such is available to both military and civilian competitors, is not considered Service support under this Rule.

Unless specifically authorized to do so by the tournament program, members of the regular Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard; members of the reserve components on active duty; retired personnel of the several services comprising the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty; or police (2.4) are not permitted to compete as civilians.

**2.2.1 Senior Competitors** - A person may compete as a senior beginning January 1 of the calendar year in which their 60th birthday occurs.

**2.3 Junior** - A person may compete as a Junior through December 31 of the calendar year in which his or her 20th birthday occurs. Individuals who have National Guard, Reserve, or active duty status and receive support (as defined in Rule 2.2) may not compete as juniors.

**2.3.1 Intermediate Junior** - A junior may also compete as an Intermediate Junior from January 1 of the calendar year in which his or her 15th birthday occurs through December 31 of the calendar year in which his or her 17th birthday occurs.

**2.3.2 Sub-Junior** - A Junior may also compete as a Sub-Junior through December 31 of the calendar year in which his or her 14th birthday occurs.

### 2.4 Police

(a) Regular full-time Law Enforcement Officers of a regularly constituted law enforcement agency of a municipal, county, state or federal government. "Full-Time" Police Firearms Instructors in Law Enforcement or Police Academies are eligible to compete in the police category. Official current identification from the agency employing a civilian full-time police firearms instructor will be required.

(b) Full time salaried Railroad Police; Penal Institution Guards; Industrial Police including Bank Guards; and Armored and Express Company Guards.

(c) Officers of a regularly organized Reserve or Auxiliary named in (a) above provided that when on duty they

are required to perform the same law enforcement functions and/or duties as the Agency to which they are in reserve and are authorized to be armed by the appointing authority.

- (d) Officers who qualify under sections (a) and (b) may after retirement, and if receiving retirement benefits, enter competition covered by these rules. Such retirees who are employed after retirement in any Agency which qualifies for entry in NRA sanctioned competition may not compete as a retired officer, but may compete as a member of the organization in which he is presently serving.
- (e) Military Police: Members of the Armed Forces of the United States, regular or reserve, private detectives, private body guards, honorary police, sheriffs, consultants or any other persons who are members of a body organized for ceremonial purposes may not compete as Police in NRA sanctioned tournaments regardless of the titles given such members.
- (f) Persons employed as Industrial Police by private industry on a part-time basis, or where such employment is not the sole occupation of such person, may not compete in the police category in NRA sanctioned tournaments. Special Officers, Honorary Officers, Civilian Instructors, Deputy Sheriffs, Deputy Game Wardens or Police Officers who are not on a full time, full pay basis in a single department are not eligible to compete as police.

**2.5 National Guard** - Federally recognized officers or enlisted persons of the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, or the Naval Militia of the several states, territories, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, who are not on extended active duty may be eligible to compete as Junior and/or Collegiate if otherwise qualified.

**2.6 Regular Service** - Officers or enlisted persons of the Regular United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and members of reserve components thereof, who are on extended active duty; provided the term "reserve components" shall include Army National Guard and Air National Guard called into federal service and while in such status may be eligible to compete as Junior and/or Collegiate if otherwise qualified.

**2.7 Reserve Competitor** - Officers and enlisted persons of any reserve components of the Armed Forces, exclusive of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard of the United States, not extended on active duty may be eligible to compete as Junior and/or Collegiate if otherwise qualified.

**2.8 Collegiate** - Regularly enrolled undergraduate students who carry 12 or more semester hours or the equivalent in an accredited two or four-year collegiate level institution and who have not received a Bachelor's Degree. Eligibility to compete as a collegiate shall extend for the maximum of four academic years.

**2.9 School** - Regularly enrolled undergraduate students of any primary or secondary school, who comply with the eligibility rules of their institution.

**2.9.1 Military Scholastic** - A junior who is an active member of a high school JROTC unit or enrolled in a military high school.

## TEAMS

**2.10 Team Representation** - No individual may be team captain, coach, firing member, or alternate firing member on more than one team in any match.

Note: Entries will not be accepted from "pickup" teams (teams whose members are selected without regard to club or other organizational affiliation) unless the program specifically provides for such eligibility.

**2.11 Club Teams** - All team members, including team captain and coach, must have been active fully-paid members of the club which the team represents for a period of at least 30 days immediately prior to the competition. The club must be affiliated with the NRA and in good standing. As specifically allowed by conditions of the program, a person who is not a club member may serve as a non-firing coach of such a team. There are two types of teams allowed in this Rule:

- (a) Local Club Teams - Local club teams must be composed of members who reside legally within the same state, territory or province.

- (b) Open Club Teams - Open Club Teams must be composed of members all of whom are not necessarily legal residents in the same state, territory or province.

**2.11.1 Affiliated Other Organizations** - (Article 3, Section 4(b) NRA Bylaws)-All members including team captain and coach of such teams must have been fully-paid members of the organization the team represents, for a period of at least 30 days immediately prior to the competition, and the organization must be affiliated with the NRA and in good standing.

**2.12 State Association Teams** - Members including team captain and coach of State Association Teams must be residents of the state represented. Members of such teams must be individual members of the State Rifle and/or Pistol Association represented, if such State Association provides for individual membership, or be members of a rifle and/or pistol club which is affiliated and in good standing with the State Association concerned at the time of the competition. State Association teams permitted to enter the competitions by the tournament program conditions must be authorized and accredited by the Association for that tournament. Authorization shall be signed by the Association President, Vice President or Secretary. Such State Associations must be affiliated and in good standing with the NRA at the time of the competition. If specifically allowed by conditions of the program, a person who is not a State Association member may serve as the coach of a State Association Team. (He may not be a firing member.)

Note: Teams representing State Associations, Leagues and other associations (composed of more than one club) are not club teams. Such teams may enter NRA sanctioned matches only when the program specifically authorizes such entry.

**2.13 Regular Service, National Guard or Armed Forces Reserve Teams** - Members of such teams must have been commissioned or enlisted members of their respective service for a continuous period of at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of the competition. Army National Guard, Air National Guard and the Naval Militia personnel may be combined into a single team.

**2.14 Police Teams** - Firing members of such teams must have been regular full-time members of their respective organizations and in active service for a continuous period of at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of competition. (Rule 2.4.)

**2.15 Civilian Club Teams** - Firing and alternate members of such teams must comply with Rules 2.2 and 2.11.

**2.16 College Teams** - Firing and alternate members of such teams must comply with Rules 2.8 and 2.11.

**2.17 School Teams** - Firing and alternate members of such teams must comply with Rules 2.9 and 2.11.

**2.17.1 Military Scholastic Team** - Firing and alternate members of such teams must comply with Rules 2.1 and 2.9.1.

**2.18 Junior Club Teams** - Firing and alternate members of such teams must comply with Rules 2.3 and 2.11.

● **2.20 Residence** - In those matches which are limited to residents of any specified geographical area, a "resident" is defined as:

- (a) A person who presents a photo identification issued by a government entity, which shows a residential address within the specified geographical area
- (b) Military Personnel: The place of residence of members of the Military on active duty is defined as the place at which they are stationed by reason of official orders, provided they have been so stationed within the specified area for a period of at least 30 days immediately prior to the day of the match. In the case of retired, Reserve, or National Guard personnel not on active duty, the provisions of paragraph (a) will apply. Naval personnel assigned on sea duty qualify for a residence in the area which is the usual base or home port of the unit to which attached.
- (c) Federal and State Law Enforcement Officers: The provisions of paragraph (b) will apply.

### 3. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION

*The intent of the Sporter Air Rifle Position Rules are to provide a low cost entry level program and are designed specifically to encourage broad participation in this shooting sport. These are intended to insure equal fairness for all shooters. Anything that may give one shooter an advantage over others, and which is not specifically authorized in these rules, or which is contrary to the intent and spirit of these rules is prohibited. See Rule 3.18.*

This section defines authorized equipment. Where alternative types of equipment are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations.

#### ● 3.2 Sporter Air Rifle (military designation is "training grade")

Any type of compressed air or CO2 rifle of conventional appearance (Figure1) and with the following additional restrictions:

- (a) Caliber: 4.5 mm (.177 caliber).
- (b) The weight of the rifle (including air or CO2 tank, if appropriate, but not including the sling) with sights may not exceed 7.5 lbs. (3.40kg). Weights may be added in accordance with rule 3.2 (h) so long as the total weight does not exceed 7.5 lbs.  
  
NOTE: If a rifle rest/bipod is used, it must be removed for shooting and should be used only for support of the rifle during position change.
- (c) A set trigger is prohibited. A minimum trigger weight of 1.5 lbs is recommended.
- (d) The butt plate may be adjustable but may not be adjusted during the competition (must remain fixed in place for all positions).
- (e) Thumb hole, thumb rest, palm rest, heel rest, hooked butt plate and spirit level are prohibited.
- (f) Sights: see Rule 3.7.1.
- (g) The length of the stock and the height of the cheek piece may not be changed during the course of fire.
- (h) Barrel weights are permitted provided the overall weight of the rifle does not exceed the maximum limitation and are within a radius of 1.18 inches (30mm) from the center of the barrel. Other weights are allowed as long as they stay within the confines of the original stock and cannot be changed during a competition.
- (i) Internal Modifications - Only factory manufactured part's designed for the specific model gun being fired may be used. Parts in the gun may not be removed and all parts must be in their correct positions and functioning in their designed manner. Internal parts may be honed or polished to improve their internal function, but such improvements may not alter their intended function.
- (j) External Modifications - A single layer of tape or non-glare paint may be placed on the barrel for the purpose of reducing glare.
- (k) Stocks - Stocks must be of conventional design. The right & left sides of the stock must be mirror images of each other. Factory installed stocks may be altered in length. The butt of the stock may be rough, checkered, or scored to provide a non-slip surface. A pistol grip may be added to the factory stock by adding material or by using a screw-on attachment. The grip may not be adjusted or removed during a position course of fire after the first record shot has been fired.

(See Illustrations)

#### 3.7.1 Sights

- (a) Metallic - Only sights manufactured specifically for sporter air rifles shall be used. Any non-adjustable

insert may be used in the sporter air rifle front sight.

- (1) Non-corrective: Any sighting system, constructed of metal or equivalent, which provides a method of aiming or aligning two separate but visible sights, or reference points mounted on the rifle, including tube sights and non-magnifying color filters.
  - (2) Corrective: Same as (1), except that a lens or system of lenses, not containing an aiming reference or reticle at the focal plane of any such lens or system of lenses, may be included in such system and may be used only if authorized in the match program. National records may not be set.
- (b) Telescopic - Any sighting system which includes a lens or system of lenses and an aiming reference or reticle at the focal plane of a lens or system of lenses may be used only if authorized in the match program. National records may not be set.
- (c) Any - Any sight without restriction as to material or construction may be used only if authorized in the match program. National records may not be set.
- (d) Prohibited - Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

**3.8 Spotting Scopes** - In 10-meter competition, the use of a spotting scope, with necessary tripod to visually locate shot holes on a target is permitted. It may be positioned forward of the shooter's forward shoulder. (Rule 9.9.)

**3.9 Shooting Kits** - The shooting kit may not be placed forward of the firing line, except that in the standing position a shooting kit, table, or stand may be used as a rifle rest between shots. The shooting kit, table or stand may not be of such size or construction as to interfere with shooters on adjacent points or to constitute a wind break.

**3.10 Ground Cloths** - Ground cloths or mats with maximum dimensions of 1.25 x 2 meters (49.2 x 78.7 inches) in size and a maximum total thickness of 5 cm (1.9 inches) may be used provided it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial rest or support.

**3.10.1 Thick Mats** - One thick mat of compressible material may be used for prone, sitting and kneeling shooting provided it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial rest or support. Maximum dimensions are 50 cm x 75 cm x 5 cm (19.6 x 29.5 x 1.9 inches) thick and when compressed must measure not less than 1 cm (0.39 inches).

**3.11 Clothing Regulations** - All clothing must be made of flexible material that does not materially change its physical characteristics under commonly accepted shooting conditions. All linings, padding, and reinforcements must be the same specifications. Lining and padding must not be quilted, cross-stitched, glued, or otherwise affixed to the outer layer other than at normal tailoring points. All lining or padding must be measured as part of the clothing. The use of any special devices, means or garments which support or immobilize the shooter's legs, body, or arms more than normal everyday clothing is prohibited. Any zippers prohibited by the following rules are permitted if made secure (unable to be further opened or closed). A button or safety pin may be used on the sleeve to aid in holding the sling in place. The button or safety pin should be used on the upper arm part of the shirt.

#### **3.11.1 (Blank)**

#### **3.11.2 Clothing - Specifications**

- (a) Shooting Jackets - No jackets are permitted.
- (b) Shooting Trousers - Trousers designed for shooting are not permitted. Only ordinary trousers or jeans are permitted.
- (c) Gloves - Gloves may be worn.
- (d) Sweatshirt - A maximum of two unaltered sweatshirts may be worn during firing. Special shooting

sweaters are not permitted.

(e) Shoes - Normal street type or light athletic shoes are permitted so long as they do not exceed the top of the ankle. Shooting boots/shoes are not permitted. (For Military Scholastic Competition (JROTC) only, issued combat boots are authorized for competition when worn with official BDU.)

(f) Pads - No pads, braces, or elastic bandages will be allowed.

● **3.13 Slings** - Slings not exceeding 1 1/4 inches (32mm) in width, with movable keepers are permitted in the prone, sitting & kneeling positions. Sling cuffs and pads are prohibited. No part of the rifle may touch the sling or any of its attachments except at the sling swivel/hand-stop.. The sling is not allowed in the standing position.

**3.14.1 Kneeling Roll** - Only one cylindrical roll for shooting in the kneeling position is allowed. It may be a maximum of 25 cm (9.84 inches) long and 18 cm (7.08 inches) in diameter, and made of soft and flexible material. Binding or using other devices to shape the roll is not permitted.

**3.14.2 Heel Rest or Thumb Rest** - A heel rest is any protrusion, extension or depression on the front or side of the pistol grip designed to prevent the hand from slipping. Such a protrusion or depression is prohibited.  
(See Illustration)

**3.17 Pellets** - Only .177 Cal. (4.5 mm) lead pellets are permitted

**3.18 General** - All devices or equipment which may facilitate shooting and which are not mentioned in these Rules, or which are contrary to the spirit of these Rules are prohibited. The Official Referee or Match Director has the right to examine a shooter's equipment and apparel. It is the shooter's responsibility to submit questionable equipment and apparel for official inspection and approval prior to the beginning of the match. Only Air Rifles which have been approved for the competition concerned may be used. (See Rule 3.2.)

**3.19 Eye Protection** - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are urged to wear eye protection devices. Specially made adjustable shooting glasses for target shooting are prohibited.

**3.20 Ear Protection** - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are permitted to wear hearing protection devices, and are urged to do so as circumstances require. Only sound reducing devices may be worn by competitors forward of the ready line during firing. Radios, tape recorders, or any type of sound producing or communication systems are prohibited forward of the ready line during firing. Competitors should be aware that match sponsors (and/or range) may require that all competitors wear eye and ear protection while attending a match on their range.

## 4. TARGETS

**4.1 Official Targets** - In NRA Sanctioned competition, only targets printed by NRA Licensed Manufactures, bearing the Official Competition target seal, or military targets issued by the Armed Services, without modification except as authorized by NRA, will be used. The use of electronic scoring targets is authorized in all events as long as the fact is included in the match program.

Note: The use of other targets may be scheduled for other rifle matches by sponsors provided the conditions are clearly stated in the match program.

### 4.2 10 Meter (33 foot) Targets

(a) Official NRA Targets AR-5/1 (single bullseye), AR-5/5 (5 bullseye), AR-5/10 (12 bullseye). International air rifle targets for firing at 10 meters (33 feet). The scoring rings 4 through 9 are black.

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 10 ring . . . . .        | 0.5 min        |
| 9 ring . . . . .         | 5.5 min        |
| 8 ring . . . . .         | 10.5 min       |
| 7 ring . . . . .         | 15.5 min       |
| 6 ring . . . . .         | 20.5 min       |
| 5 ring . . . . .         | 25.5 min       |
| 4 ring . . . . .         | 30.5 min       |
| 3 ring . . . . .         | 35.5 min       |
| 2 ring . . . . .         | 40.5 min       |
| 1 ring . . . . .         | 45.5 min       |
| Ring thickness . . . . . | 0.1mm to 0.2mm |

Permitted deviation from the specified dimension-maximum 0.05 mm. Minimum visible size of target card (single bull targets) -8 x 8 cm.

(b) The TQ-18 Target is encouraged for use during introductory training and initial skill development.

**4.3 Target Paper** - The target paper must be of non-reflecting color and material so that the black bullseye (center) is clearly visible under all normal light conditions at the appropriate distance. The target card and printing must retain dimensional accuracy without distortion under all weather and climate conditions. The card material must register all shot holes without excessive tearing when the pellet passes through.

## 5. POSITIONS

**Positions** - The positions for use in a match shall be stated in the program under conditions of the match and shall be in accord with the definitions of positions prescribed in this section.

**5.1 The Ground** - All reference to "the ground" in the following position rules are to be considered as the surface of the firing point, floor, or shooting mats. No portion of the shooter's body may contact the ground forward of the firing line (Rule 6.1), although those portions of the shooter's body or rifle which do not contact the ground may extend forward of the firing line.

**5.2 Artificial Support** - Any supporting surface except the ground not specifically authorized for use in the Rules of the position prescribed. Digging or use of elbow or heel holes at the firing points or the use of depressions which form artificial support is prohibited except as individually authorized for a physically handicapped shooter.

### 5.3 (Blank)

**5.6 Prone** - The shooter may lie on the bare surface of the firing point or he may use a mat. The thick mat may also be used to rest the elbows. The body will be extended on the firing point with the head 11 toward the target. The rifle will be supported by both hands and one shoulder only. The cheek may be placed against the rifle stock in the sighting position. The rifle may be held by means of a sling. The foreend behind the left hand or any part of the rifle must not rest on the sling or its attachments. The rifle may not touch or rest against any other point or object. Both forearms, as well as the sleeves of the shooter's jacket, must be clearly and visibly raised from the surface of the firing point. The shooter's forward forearm may not form an angle less than 30 degrees from the horizontal (floor or mat), on which the elbow rests (measured through the axis of the forearm). (Left-handed shooters reverse these descriptions.)

Illustrations indicate some approved positions

**5.8 Sitting** - Weight of the body supported on the buttocks and the feet or ankles, no other portion of the body touching the ground. The rifle will be supported by both hands and one shoulder only. Elbows may rest on the legs at any point above the ankles. (The elbow is defined as 4 inches from the point of the arm when bent.)

**5.10 Kneeling** - The shooter may touch the ground with the right foot, the right knee and the left foot. The rifle shall be held in the same way as when shooting in the prone position, i.e. with both hands and the right shoulder. The left elbow shall be supported on the left knee. The point of the elbow must not be more than 10 cm (3.9 inches) over or 15 cm (5.8 inches) behind the point of the knee. The rifle may be held by means of the sling. The fore-end behind the left hand or any part of the rifle must not rest on the sling or its attachments. If the kneeling roll is placed under the instep of the right foot, the foot may not be turned at an angle of more than 45 degrees. If the kneeling roll is not used, the foot may be positioned at any angle, to include placing the side of the foot and the lower leg in contact with the ground. No portion of the upper leg or buttocks may touch the ground at any point. The shooter may kneel completely on the ground cloth and/or thick mat (Rule 3. 10 and 3. 10. 1) or he may have only one or two of the three points of contact (toe, knee, foot) on the ground cloth and/or thick mat. Only the trousers and underclothing may be worn between the shooter's seat and his heel. Articles may not be placed between these points or under the right knee. (Lefthanded shooters reverse these descriptions.) See Rule 3.14.1.

● **5.12 Standing** - The shooter shall stand free with both feet on the ground or a thin mat without any other support. The rifle shall be held with both hands and the shoulder, the cheek and the part of the chest next to the right shoulder. However, the chest beyond the area of the right shoulder and right chest must not support the rifle. The left upper arm and elbow may be supported on the chest or on the hip. Use of the sling attached to the body and/or rifle is prohibited. During shooting, the sling swivel may not contact the supporting hand. (Left-handed shooters reverse this description.)

## 6. RANGE STANDARDS

**6.1 Firing Line** - The firing line is immediately in front of the firing point, and must be marked so that it can be clearly seen by coaches and shooters. The shooting distance is measured from the firing line edge closest to the shooter to the face of the targets.

**6.2 Firing Points** - The part of the range provided for the shooter immediately to the rear of the firing line. Each firing point should be a minimum width of 48 inches. Each firing point is numbered to correspond to the target numbers downrange.

*A width of 40 inches is acceptable if range conditions will only allow this width. However, 48 inches is ideal for position shooting and should be used whenever possible for shooters' comfort.*

### 6.2.1 Shooting Ranges, Specific -

- (a) 10 Meters - The shooting range shall normally be equipped with target carriers. Simpler ranges may also be built with fixed targets, provided safety is observed in every respect. The ranges may be constructed either in the open air or indoors.
- (b) The recommended height of the target for the standing position is 1.40 meters (55.12 inches)  $\pm$  0.05 meters (1.96 inches) above the level of the firing point. Target heights for all positions may be adjustable within the range of the target holders. Lateral deviations of left or right of the center of the target should not exceed 25 cm (9.84 inches).
- (c) Newly constructed shooting ranges should ensure that the shooting stations have a minimum roof height of 2.2 meters (86.6 inches) above the level of the firing point floor.

**6.3 Shelter** - The firing point on outdoor ranges may be covered and enclosed on three sides, open toward the targets. There must be ample room for Range Officers and witnesses to move freely at the rear of the shooters.

**6.4 Shooting Distance** - The shooting distances shall be measured 13 from the target to the firing line to which the shooter may place his forward foot or elbow. The distance will be 10 meters + .05 meters.

**6.5 Illumination** - Artificial illumination of outdoor and indoor ranges is permitted.

**6.6 Target Numbers** - Target positions or frames downrange will be numbered on alternating backgrounds of contrasting colors. The number will be large enough to be identified under ordinary conditions with normal vision. Numbers must correspond with firing point numbers.

**6.7 Backing Targets** - Blank targets may be hung 3 inches behind record targets to determine crossfires.

**6.8 Target Equipment** - The targets (within a group or range) shall be placed at the same height, each target corresponding to one firing point. The target system must ensure the necessary degree of safety, accurate control of timing, and the efficient scoring and changing of the targets. The targets shall be fixed in a manner that their visible movement is not distracting to the competitors even in high winds.  
(See Rule 6.2.1.)

**6.9 Wind Flags** - A wind flag is a strip of cloth affixed to the top of a stake which is approximately at target height. Personal wind flags, gauges or instruments are prohibited. Wind flags will be placed as close to the path of the pellet's flight as practical without interfering with the pellet's flight or the shooter's view of the target while he aims.

NOTE: 10 Meter/33 Feet-On outdoor ranges, wind flags will be erected between the firing lanes of at least every fourth position at approximately 5 meters (195 inches). The flags will be 5 cm (1.97 inches) x 40 cm (15.7 inches) and made of a cotton material weighing approximately 150 g (5.3 oz) per square meter.

**6.11 Range Clock** - The range should be equipped with a large clock which can be clearly seen by the competitors and the Range Officers. If such clock is not available the Range Officers and/or Jury may bring the time remaining to the attention of the shooters according to Rule 8.4.

## 7. COURSES OF FIRE

The following courses of fire are most commonly found in NRA Sanctioned Sporter Air Rifle Position Competition, fired on standard NRA targets described in Section 4. See Section 8 for Time Allowances, Section 17 for Courses of Fire for which National Records are recognized and Rule 19.4 for Courses of Fire used for Classification. Other courses of fire, other time limits, or the use of other targets may be scheduled by sponsors provided the conditions are clearly stated in the program.

NOTE: The match program must clearly state the course or courses of fire.

### 7.1 10 Meter (33 Feet) Sporter Air Rifle (Rule 3.2) -

#### (a) Shooting Program

1. 10 shots in each position; prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling in that order.
2. 10 shots in each position; prone, standing, and kneeling in that order.
3. 20 shots in each position; prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling in that order.
4. 20 shots in each position; prone, standing, and kneeling in that order.
5. 40 shots standing: and/or
6. 60 shots standing.

#### (b) Target - Air rifle target for 10 meters: Rule 4.2(a).

#### (c) Time Limits - Shooting time including sighting shots is 1 1/2 minutes per record shot prone, sitting and kneeling; and 2 minutes per record shot standing.

#### (d) Dry Firing - Allowed only during probation period. After record firing begins dry firing is not allowed. "Dry Firing" means the release of the cocked trigger mechanism of an unloaded rifle or the release of the trigger mechanism of a gun fitted with a device which enables the trigger to be operated without discharging the gun.

### 7.1.1 "Finals Procedure" - If fired, finals will be fired under these conditions.

#### (a) All finals to be 10 shots fired from standing position.

#### (b) Finalists to consist of top 8 competitors and all ties.

#### (c) Competitors must report to the Range Officer 20 minutes before the scheduled beginning of the finals event.

#### (d) Preparation and Sighting Period: 10 minutes combined preparation and sighting period for finals competition will be given 11 minutes before the start time. Unlimited sighting shots will begin after the command start by the Range Officer.

#### (e) Start Time: The starting time for each final event should be printed in the official shooting program or announced by Match Director's bulletin. The starting time begins with the command "LOAD" for the first competition shot.

#### (f) Any finalist not reporting to his assigned position at the beginning of the preparation period will automatically be placed last in the final results.

#### (g) The starting time for each finals event may be published in the match program or announced by Match Director's bulletin.

#### (h) The competitors who qualify for the finals will be assigned the following start positions according to ranking

of the order or merit finish of the qualification round.

Note: All competitors will be given new start numbers corresponding to their placings. Last names should also be placed on the new start numbers.

|                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Firing Point   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Starting Point | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

(i) Number of Sighting Targets and Shots per Target

1. Number of sighting targets: 4 targets
2. Number of competition shots per target: One (1) shot per target.

(j) Seven minutes are allowed for firing of sighter shots. Unlimited sighting shots may be fired at the sighter bulls of the finals target. (Range Officer will give a warning announcement 30 seconds before the expiration of sighter time.)

(k) After expiration of sighter time there will be a 30 second pause.

(l) The finals will consist of 10 shots fired from the standing position and will be conducted single shot for shot with the following commands for each shot:

**FOR THE FIRST (NEXT) COMPETITION SHOT, LOAD** - After this command the shooter loads the air rifle.

**ATTENTION** - 3 2 1

**START** - The shooter has 75 seconds for one shot.

**STOP** - This command is given after the last shooter has fired or immediately after termination of the shooting time of 75 seconds.

(m) One record shot per record bull

1. After each record shot, the shots will be scored and the value will be announced for each firing point.
2. After the target has been scored and the value announced the next record shot will be fired. This exact sequence is repeated until the finals are completed.

(n) All results in the finals competition will be added to the individual results of the qualification score. All final results will be printed in the results bulletin.

(o) If a shooter fires more than one shot during the single shot time, it will be scored as a miss.

(p) Decision in the event of tied scores: Scores of both qualification and finals for each individual will be added. Those tied will continue to shoot single shot for shot, using the procedure described above, until the tie is broken.

(q) If automatic target carriers are used, the target must be carried in only after the command "STOP" is given to avoid any disturbance of the other finalists.

(r) Aiming exercises are allowed between the commands "STOP" and the following command "LOAD." Dry firing in any form is prohibited.

"Dry Firing" means the release of the cocked trigger mechanism of an unloaded rifle or the release of the trigger mechanism of a gun fitted with a device which enables the trigger to be operated without discharging the gun.

## 8. TIME LIMITS

**8.1 Computing Time** - Time is not checked on each shot. The time allowance is computed for a complete stage (including sighting shots when specified). In some cases this is on the basis of the specified number of shots multiplied by the allowance per shot. The Chief Range Officer may terminate any relay before completion of the full time allowed if all competitors in that relay have completed firing. Time allowed but not used does not carry over to another string or stage.

### 8.2 Time Allowance -

- (a) Time Limits - Shooting time including sighting shots is 1 1/2 minutes per record shot prone, sitting, and kneeling; and 2 minutes per record shot standing.
- (b) Changes to time limits must be stated in the tournament program. It is recommended that the competitors be given 15 additional minutes for each position change but in no case will less than 5 minutes be allowed for each position change. In matches at more than one range or stage when firing must cease to change targets or stages, time may not be accumulated at one range or stage and used at another range or stage. Time for each range or stage will be allotted separately.

**8.4 Passage of Time** - It is the Tournament Sponsor's option to inform the shooters of time remaining at ten (10) and five (5) minutes before the end of the shooting time.

**8.5 Additional Time** - It is the responsibility of the shooter to finish shooting within the time allowed. Additional time will not be given except as otherwise provided in these Rules. Any extension of time which is allowed by the Jury, Referee, or Range Officers will be clearly marked on the record keeper's (scorer's) card with the reason stated. If there is no record keeper or scorer the Range Officer will record the additional time allowed and the reason and will inform the shooter involved.

Note: Shots which are fired before or after the end of the official shooting time, or which are not fired at all, shall be registered as misses, unless the Jury, Referee, or the Range Officers have authorized extra time for the shooter.

## 9. COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND RANGE OPERATION

**9.1 Changing Air Rifles** - No competitor will exchange his air rifle or the stock of his air rifle during the firing of any single or multiple stage match (except in aggregate matches), unless it has become disabled and has been so designated by the Chief Range Officer or Referee. For the purpose of this rule the firing of a match is considered to have started when the competitor has fired his first record shot. A claim that an air rifle is disabled must be made immediately. All shots fired up to the time that the claim is made will stand as part of the official score.

- **9.1.1 Changing of compressed air or CO<sup>2</sup> cylinders** for any reason must be done behind the ready line.

### 9.2 Sighting Shots -

- (a) Sighting shots (unlimited in number) may be fired at any time after the command Commence Fire within the time limit for that match or stage. Once the first record shot in a position has been fired, no further sighting shots are allowed unless permitted by the Jury.
- (b) If a shooter must cease fire for longer than three (3) minutes due to no fault of his own, he may demand extra and equal time. If the interruption is longer than five (5) minutes, the shooter has the right to unlimited additional sighting shots. If a target change requires the shooter to move away from the firing point or get out of position the shooter has the right to unlimited additional sighting shots.
- (c) Unlimited additional sighting shots may be authorized in the event of a disabled air rifle. See Rules 9.5 and 10.
- (d) A two point penalty will be given for each sighting shot fired after the first record shot except as authorized by the Jury.

**9.2.1 Marking of Sighting Target** - The sighting target must be clearly marked, normally, by means of a black stripe in the upper right corner which can be clearly seen with the naked eye. During competitions where double target frames are used, a broad black band will be hung over the face of the target which is not in use or the target not in use must be removed. If the 12-bull AR5/10 target is used, the sighting targets are located in the center of the target and enclosed with a guard ring.

**9.2.2 Misplaced Sighting Shots** - When a multiple bullseye target (with sighting bullseye) is used, and the firer in his first fired shot of the target (sighting bullseye) misses the scoring area of the sighting bullseye or ring when printed on targets, the firer shall: halt firing, call a Range Official or Referee, have the official verify that the shot is not in the sighting bullseye. The official shall record this fact and the firer shall commence firing at the sighting bull again. The Range Official will continue to observe until the firer's shots hits the sighting bullseye. At this point the official will verify all previous shots (they will not be scored as misses) and the shooter will continue firing the match under the rules of the match. No extra time will be allowed for the procedure above. Additional shots outside the scoring rings will be scored as record shots. All penalties used in scoring shall be in force after the first shot that strikes the sighting bullseye.

### 9.3 (Blank)

**9.4 Misfire** - A misfire is a shot in which the pellet is not expelled from the gun. The Range Officer must be notified of a possible misfire before the next shot is fired. The Range Officer, when satisfied there is a misfire, will permit the competitor to continue firing. A competitor will be given the appropriate additional time to fire each misfire.

**9.5 Disabled Air Rifle** - Any air rifle which cannot be safely aimed or fired, or has suffered damage to the sights rendering it impossible to aim properly or which has a broken seal or cannot be fired because of mechanical failure may be declared a disabled air rifle by the Range Officer. There must be evidence of physical damage to the sights; the fact that the sights are improperly adjusted does not constitute disablement. If the air rifle fails to function, the shooter or coach must notify the Range Officer. A gun declared disabled by the Range Officer shall not be used again for firing until the defect has been corrected and the gun has been ruled safe by the Range Officer. When a gun has been declared disabled, the shooter will be given a reasonable period of time to repair the gun or continue firing with a substitute. When the shooter resumes firing, he/she will be given the amount of time that remained to be fired at the time the gun became disabled. The shooter will be given the opportunity for unlimited sighting shots within the allotted time remaining in accordance with Rule 9.2.

**9.6 Malfunction** - Failure of the rifle to function properly due to mechanical defects or to defective ammunition. Functional failures due to improper manual operation are not to be considered as malfunctions. (For procedure in case of a disabled rifle, see Rule 10.9.)

Note: Running out of air/CO2 in the middle of a stage does not constitute a disabled rifle or malfunction. No additional time will be given to restore the rifle to shooting condition. Low air pressure in the rifle caused by a damaged seal or leaks will be considered a malfunction. All other reasons will not be considered a malfunction or a disabled gun. If the shooter thinks his gun has malfunctioned, he must inform the Chief Range Officer who will make a decision on the rifle. All shots, up to the point of declaration of the malfunctioning rifle, will count.

### **9.7 (Blank)**

**9.8 Examination of Equipment** - The shooter is responsible for using equipment that complies with these rules. The tournament officials may spot check a shooter's equipment at any time. The shooter is responsible for submitting questionable equipment to tournament officials prior to the start of the competition. Questionable equipment should be examined between positions or after firing so that the shooter is not disturbed while shooting.

**9.9 Competitor's Position** - A competitor will take his position immediately to the right of the numbered firing point marker except that left-handed shooters may be directed by the Range Officer to take position immediately to the left of the marker in order to avoid interference with other competitors. No portion of the shooter's body may rest upon or touch the ground forward of the firing line. This does not prohibit some equipment from being placed forward of the firing line. (See Rule 3.9 Shooting Kits.)

**9.10 Coaching Prohibited** - During individual competition, coaching of any kind is forbidden while the competitor is on the firing line. As long as the competitor is on the firing line he may speak only with members of the Jury or with Range Officials. Coaches may assist shooters before the preparation period begins.

- (a) If a competitor wishes to speak with any other person, he must unload his air rifle, leave it in a safe condition on the line (or the firing bench) and leave the firing line only after notifying the Range Officer, then being careful not to disturb other competitors.
- (b) If a team official wishes to inform a shooter on the firing line of something which does not relate to the competition or "coaching" he must first obtain permission of a Jury member or the Official Referee.

**9.11 Matches Not Complete** - When a match or stage is not completed by all competitors in accordance with the tournament schedule, the match or stage may be rescheduled or cancelled. Any match or stage which has been completed by all competitors will not be refired. Only scores of a match or stage which has been completed will be included in an aggregate event, and a match or stage is not completed unless all competitors have fired.

### **9.12 (Blank)**

**9.13.1 Interference** - With the exception of competitors actually firing and such range personnel as may be necessary, the firing points and lines will be kept clear at all times. Competitors will not be permitted to interfere with the handling of targets by range personnel.

### **9.14 . 9.22 (Blank)**

**9.23 Aliases** - No competitor may fire under an assumed name nor substitute for another in a match; no competitor may register, enter or fire in the name of another.

### **9.24 (Blank)**

**9.25 Crossfires and Excessive Hits** - No competitor will deliberately fire on the wrong target nor fire more than the required number of shots, including hits on some other competitor's target card. (Rules 14.7 and 14.10.)

**9.26 Bribery** - No person will offer a bribe of any kind to any of the range, statistical personnel, or others, nor be an accessory thereto.

**9.27 Disorderly Conduct** - Disorderly conduct or intoxication is strictly prohibited on the range and anyone guilty of same will be expelled from the range. Expelled competitors will be disqualified from that competition with

no return of entry fees.

**9.27.1 Willful Destruction of Range Equipment** - No competitor shall cause any range equipment to become damaged through a deliberate act, and anyone guilty of same will be expelled from the range without a warning. Expelled competitors will be disqualified from the competition with no return of entry fees.

**9.28 Refusal to Obey** - No person will refuse to obey instructions of the Match Director, Official Referee, Supervisor, Range Officers or of any other officer of the tournament, if instructions are given in the proper conduct of his office.

**9.29 Evasion of Rules** - No competitor will evade nor attempt to evade nor be an accessory to the evasion of any of the conditions of a match as prescribed in the program or in these Rules. Refusal of a competitor or Tournament Official to give testimony regarding facts known to him concerning violations or attempted violations of these Rules will constitute being an accessory to the violation or attempted violation.

**9.30 Penalties/Disqualifications** - In cases of infringement and contravention of the regulations or of the instructions of Range Officers, the following penalties may be imposed upon the competitor by the Match Director, Referee or Jury:

Warning

Deduction of points from the score

Disqualification

In case of infringement of the regulations:

- (a) A warning may be given so that the competitor may have the opportunity to correct the fault. In case of a serious violation of safety regulations, the Jury or Referee has the authority to impose immediate disqualification.
- (b) If the competitor does not correct the fault before the next shot, 10 points shall be deducted from his score.
- (c) For a repeated infringement, the competitor may be disqualified.
- (d) A warning to the competitor must be expressed in such terms as will leave no doubt that it is an official warning. A warning to the competitor, whenever it is possible, should be given so as not to disturb him while firing a shot, unless the infringement concerns safety, in which case the competitor shall be warned immediately.
- (e) If a competitor continues to handle his firearm in a dangerous manner, or continues to violate any of the safety regulations, he may be disqualified.
- (f) If the Range Officer, Referee or Jury is of the opinion that the competitor has attempted to intentionally circumvent the rules or disturb other competitors in an unsportsmanlike manner, he may be warned, then penalized by the deduction of 10 points from his score, or he may be disqualified.
- (g) If the Range Officer, Referee, or Jury considers that the competitor is holding up the procedure unnecessarily, with the intention of gaining unfair advantage, he may be warned, then for every similar fault thereafter, 10 points may be deducted from his score.
- (h) The discharge of any firearm anywhere other than the firing line, or the firing line prior to the shooter being placed in the preparation period, will result in disqualification and expulsion from the tournament with no refund of fees. If a firearm is discharged while the shooters are in the preparation period prior to the command LOAD or COMMENCE FIRING, it will result in the competitor being disqualified from that fired match.
- (i) Any competitor placing a pellet in the chamber on the loading ramp or in the magazine before the command LOAD, will be warned on the first violation, disqualified from that stage for the second violation,

disqualified from the match for the third violation, and expelled from the tournament for the fourth violation, with no refund of fees.

*All irregularities, penalties, misses, malfunctions, extra time allowed, repeated shots or repeated series, annulment of shots, etc., must be clearly marked and recorded in the Range Register, and on both the target and score card, by the Target Control Officer or by the responsible official on the range.*

Penalty points will be deducted from the stage or match in which the infraction has occurred, starting from the last bull fired in the stage or match.

**9.31 Suspension** - For violation of these Rules deemed so to justify, any member may be suspended or expelled from the National Rifle Association upon presentation of evidence and conduct of a hearing as prescribed in the Bylaws.

## 10. RANGE CONTROL AND COMMANDS

**10.1 Discipline** - The safety of competitors, range personnel and spectators requires continuous attention by all to the careful handling of firearms and caution in moving about the range. Self discipline is necessary on the part of all. Where such self-discipline is lacking it is the duty of the range personnel to enforce discipline and the duty of competitors to assist in such enforcement.

*Under no circumstances shall firing commence or continue on a range where an unsafe condition exists.*

**10.1.2 Air Rifles Unloaded** - Air Rifles will not be loaded until the competitor has taken position at his firing point; air rifles are pointed toward the targets; and the command, "COMMENCE FIRE" or "START" has been given.

**10.1.3 Loaded Air Rifles** - No pellet will be inserted into the air rifle except at the firing point and after the command, "COMMENCE FIRE" or "START." The muzzle of the air rifle will be pointed in the direction of the targets until the air rifle is discharged or unloaded. Even if the rifle has a magazine, only one pellet may be loaded.

### 10.1.4 Cease Firing

- (a) Cease Firing - All shooters will immediately stop firing upon the command "Cease Firing" or "Stop." Actions will remain open (See Rule 14.5). "Cease" is the preparatory part of the command and "Firing" is the action part of the command. NO shot should be fired after the word "Firing" is spoken.
- (b) Commence Firing - All shooters may start firing upon the command "Commence Firing" or "Start" as the timing of the string is started with this command (See Rule 14.5). "Commence" is the preparatory part of the command and "Firing" is the action part of the command. NO shot will be fired before the word "Firing" is spoken.

**10.1.5 Not Ready** - It is the duty of competitors to notify the Range Officer if not ready to fire at the time the Range Officer asks "IS THE LINE READY?" Should the Range Officer cause firing to proceed, the competitor concerned will be given an opportunity to fire his score in the earliest possible relay or by time extension in his relay. Failure of competitor to notify the Range Officer that he is not ready forfeits his right to fire.

**10.1.8 Disturbance of Competition** - Should a competitor consider that he was disturbed while firing a shot, he must put down his air rifle and immediately make his claim to the Range Officer or Jury Member, without disturbing the other competitors.

- (a) If the claim is considered justified, the shot will be annulled and the competitor will be allowed to repeat the shot.
- (b) If the claim is considered not justified, the shot will be credited to the competitor.

### 10.1.9 Target Mounting

- (a) When a range is equipped with a carrier system permitting the changing of targets from the firing line without suspending the firing, competitors may be issued the targets necessary to complete the match. Each competitor will be responsible for hanging his target properly on the target carrier and may, if provided for in the tournament program, remove the fired target under supervision of the range officials. Fired targets will be gathered by the Range Officer as soon as each stage is completed.
- (b) When carrier systems are not used, each competitor may be required to hang his target properly and remove his or another competitor's fired target under supervision of the range officials, if provided for in the tournament program.
- (c) When targets are framed (mounted) by persons other than the competitors, competitors must be given the opportunity to observe their assigned targets and verify they are clean and of the correct type before the command to load is given.

**10.2 Loud Language** - Loud or abusive language will not be permitted. Competitors, Scorers and Range Officers will limit their conversation directly behind the firing line to official business. (Rules

9.13.1 and 10.3.2)

**10.3 Delaying a Match** - No competitor may delay the start of a match through tardiness in reporting or undue delay in preparing to fire.

**10.3.1 Preparation Period** - In all cases competitors will be allowed a minimum of 3 minutes to take their places at their firing points and prepare to fire after the firing point has been cleared by the preceding competitor. Dry firing shall be permitted during this period.

**10.3.2 Interrupted Fire** - If for any reason such as safety or technical problems the shooting is interrupted through no fault of the competitor and if the time elapsed is more than 5 minutes, or if the shooter must move his equipment to another firing point the Jury/Referee will allow unlimited additional sighting shots.

**10.4 Policing Range** - It is the duty of competitors to police the firing points after the completion of each stage. The Range Officers will supervise such policing and will see that the firing points are kept clean.

**10.5 Competitors Will Score** - Competitors will act as scorers when requested to do so by the Match Director or Chief Range Officer, except that no competitor will score his own target.

**10.6 Repeating Commands** - A Range Officer will repeat the Chief Range Officer's commands only when those commands cannot be heard clearly by competitors under his supervision.

**10.7 Firing Line Commands** - When ready to start the firing of a match the Range Officer commands:

**"RELAY NO. I MATCH NO (or naming the match) ON THE FIRING LINE."**

Once shooters have been given enough time to get to their firing points, the Range Officer will state: **"GO FORWARD AND HANG YOUR TARGETS."**

When all shooters have returned from downrange, the Range Officer commands: **"THE PREPARATION PERIOD STARTS NOW."**

Shooters will have a minimum of 3 minutes to make their last minute preparations. Shooters may dry fire during the preparation period. Range Officers should check the location of each competitor as to correct firing point by comparing the number of each competitor's firing point with the relay and target number on his scorecard or on the range assignment card. At the end of 3 minutes, the Range Officer states: **"THE PREPARATION PERIOD HAS ENDED."**

Next the Range Officer asks the question: **"IS THE LINE READY?"**

A competitor who is not ready will immediately raise his arm and call, **"NOT READY ON TARGET!"** The Range Officer will immediately state: **"THE LINE IS NOT READY,"** proceed to investigate the difficulty and assist in correcting it. When this has been corrected, the Range Officer calls: **"THE LINE IS READY, COMMENCE FIRING, YOU HAVE ' \_\_ ' MINUTES."**

(Note: Time will vary depending on course of fire.)

After this command, firing commences and shooters have the stated time to complete their firing. At the end of the firing period, the Range Officer commands: **"CEASE FIRE. MAKE THE LINE SAFE."**

Each shooter must stop firing immediately, open the action and place the rifle on the shooting mat with the action visible. If the last pellet has not been fired it will still be in the barrel. The shooter should inform the Range Officer immediately by saying **"PELLET STILL IN THE BARREL."** He will then command: **"UNLOAD, CLEAR THROUGH THE BARREL."**

Any unfired rounds must be discharged into the backstop at this time and may not be fired at the target. The guns are grounded and checked to see that the actions are open and to the rear. The next command: **"IS THE LINE SAFE?"**

If the Range Officer did not observe all rifles grounded and safe he would say: **"THE LINE IS NOT SAFE,**

Sporter Air Rifle

## **STAND EASY."**

He will then assist in making the line safe. When he can observe that the line is safe, he will say: **"THE LINE IS SAFE, GO FORWARD AND REPLACE (or REMOVE) YOUR TARGETS."** No one may touch or handle a rifle while there is someone downrange. Succeeding relays are handled in a like manner.

Block Officers or competitors will immediately command: "CEASE FIRING" if any unsafe act occurs which indicates possible injury to some living thing should firing continue. In all other cases commands will originate with the Range Officer.

Should a target blowout of the frame or otherwise become unserviceable' the Range Officer will issue commands and directions as deemed advisable by him.

Other commands used less frequently are:

"AS YOU WERE" means disregard the command just given. For example, if the commands were given "THE LINE, IS READY" follow by "AS YOU WERE" it would mean someone was not ready.

"CARRY ON" means proceed with whatever was being done before some interruption occurred.

**10.7.1 Firing Sequence** - Only one shot shall be fired and scored on each of the bulls without penalty (unless otherwise specified in the match program). It is the responsibility of the shooter to keep track of his/her shots and to fire only one shot at each bull. In case more than one shot strikes in one bull, scoring rules in Section 14 shall govern.

NOTE: Two five-bull targets hung side by side, or one 10-bull target with 2 sighting targets will be considered one target.

**10.9 Procedure in Case of Disabled Air Rifle or Malfunction** - If a shooter has trouble with his air rifle, he can have it repaired or may continue shooting with another air rifle. If the repair lasts for some time, he may be credited with extra time (Rule 9.5), maximum 15 minutes, and will complete shooting at a time determined by the Chief Range Officer. The shooter has the right to unlimited additional sighting shots. In all cases, the Range Officers or the Jury must be informed so they may decide on the measures to be taken.

**10.13 Procedure in Case of Loose or Fallen Target** - If a target falls or is blown from its target holder or blows loose so the shooter can no longer fire at it, the shooter or coach (in a team match) must notify the Range Officer. The Range Officer, at his/her discretion, may cease firing to replace the target, have the shooter wait until firing has ceased to replace the target and continue firing, or resquad the shooter. If the shooter is allowed to continue firing or is resquadded, he/she will be given the amount of time that remained to be fired at the time the loose or fallen target was reported. Sighting shots are also allowed according to (Rule 9.2)

## 11. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

**Tournament Officials** - Officials will be thoroughly familiar with conditions of the program and with National Rifle Association Rules. Officials may compete in Approved, Registered, State and Regional Tournaments. National Championship match officials may not compete.

**11.1 Match Director** - The Match Director is the official primarily responsible for the efficient conduct of the entire tournament. He may change match and firing conditions from those shown in the program, provided a Match Director's bulletin is posted for the information of all competitors, and that such changes are not contrary to current NRA Rules. The Match Director is also directly responsible for the efficient operation of the range and the Statistical Office and for the safety and proper discipline of all tournament operating personnel, competitors and spectators. Instructions from the Match Director for the operation of the tournament will be complied with by all persons on the range. The Match Director will use the best judgement at all times. His behavior and decisions must be characterized by absolute impartiality, firmness, courtesy and complete awareness. In the application of these Rules the Match Director will confer with the NRA Official Referee or Jury on any doubtful point and will be guided by the Official Referee's or Jury's decision.

**11.1.1 Deputy Match Director** - The Deputy Match Director, when appointed, is responsible to the Match Director for the efficient conduct of the entire tournament, and acts for the Match Director in all matters listed in Rule 11.1. A Deputy Match Director is appointed at the discretion of the Sponsor.

**11.2 Official Referee** - An Official Referee may be assigned at all NRA Sanctioned State, Sectional, Regional and National Championships. Assignments are made from Headquarters of the National Rifle Association. The NRA Official Referee is not an administrative or operating official and is not responsible for the behavior or efficiency of either range or statistical office personnel. It is the responsibility of the Referee to properly interpret and apply all National Rifle Association Rules. The Official Referee's decisions are final in scoring of challenged targets except when scoring in the pit and at National Championships. He will not score except when called on to rule on challenges. It is the Referee's duty to rule on all protests and challenges. Except in an emergency involving the safety of personnel or property, the Referee will not give instruction directly to tournament operating personnel, but will give all such instructions through the Match Director. In the event of a disagreement between Match Officials, the Official Referee shall prevail at the match with recourse only to the Protest Committee. The NRA Official Referee may not change the NRA Rules as printed herein or as officially amended. It is the duty of the Referee to render a complete report to the National Rifle Association covering all phases of the tournament. The Referee may disqualify all or any portion of the score, if, in the Referee's opinion, the conditions warrant such action. A report will be submitted on any Tournament Official who refuses to accept proper instructions given by the Official Referee. After a full hearing is held by the Protest Committee on such a report, the Association may:

- (a) Warn, suspend, or bar anyone from serving or competing in NRA competition.
- (b) Warn, suspend, or cancel Certificate of the Official Referee.
- (c) Refuse to accept for registration or approval any further tournaments conducted on the same range or by the same organization until the unsatisfactory condition reported by the Official Referee has been corrected.

Official Referees may not compete in any match fired in conjunction with any tournament where they are officiating. The Official Referee assigned to a Registered Tournament may disqualify a competitor(s) under provisions of Rule 9.30.

**11.2.1 Jury** - In all Approved or Registered Tournaments where no Official Referee is assigned, a 3-member Jury will be formed by the Match Director to function as described in Rule 11.2. One member of the Jury must be a member of the sponsoring organization, and complete the reports required by NRA. The members of the Jury may not be competitors in that tournament. A Jury member shall be exempted from ruling on a matter in which they are personally involved and the Match Director will name a replacement for that Jury member while ruling on that action. Under no circumstances may any Match Official (Rules 11.1, 11.1.1, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, and 11.7) be a member of the Jury. The Jury Chairman may disqualify a competitor(s), as directed by the Jury, under provisions of Rule 9.30.

### 11.3 Blank

● **11.4 Range Director** - When appointed, the Range Director and Deputy Director are responsible to the Match Director, and have supervisory responsibility for the Chief Range Officers and for the efficient and safe operation of the ranges. Appointment of a Range Director and Deputy Range Directors is authorized when multiple ranges are in operation.

● **11.4.1 Chief Range Officer** - Will have full charge of the range and will conduct the matches on schedule approved by the Match Director. He is responsible for range safety and for enforcing all rules.

**11.5 Range Officers** - Each Range Officer is an assistant to the Chief Range Officer. Competitors may be assigned this duty. He is responsible for the safety and discipline of range personnel, competitors and spectators in the sector of the range to which he has been assigned. He is responsible for seeing that the competitor's equipment and position are as authorized for the particular match being fired. It is his duty to be completely familiar with the program and with the National Rifle Association Rules. He is to comply to the best of his ability with all instructions issued by the Match Director or Chief Range Officer and will render all possible cooperation to other officials. He must be constantly alert, impartial in his handling of competitors and courteous though firm.

**11.6 Statistical Officer** - The Chief Statistical Officer is in charge of all statistical work in connection with the match except the actual recording of scores when this is done on the range. The Chief Statistical Officer is directly responsible to the Match Director. He is assisted by such Assistant Statistical Officers as may be required.

**11.6.1 Duties of Office** - It is the duty of the Statistical Office to:

- (a) Register competitors, and check their eligibility and classification.
- (b) Accept match entries.
- (c) Prepare, post and keep current a list of competitors showing name, number and classification.
- (d) Squad competitors and prepare range assignment cards where such cards are used.
- (e) When backing cards are used compare the record target with the backing target, and determine the firing point from which shots were fired in error and indicate such information on the record card.
- (f) Check addition on score cards and correct totals.
- (g) Tabulate scores in order of merit.
- (h) Prepare Preliminary and Official Bulletins.
- (i) Maintain an Official Bulletin Board.
- (j) Determine award winners and distribute awards.
- (k) Report to Match Director, NRA Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor for appropriate disciplinary action any irregularities in firing or scoring which may be indicated by squadding records or score cards.
- (l) Make required reports to NRA within specified time.

**11.6.2 Retention of Records** - The Statistical Office will retain in good order all completed official score cards for 30 days, and all fired targets (except those scored on frame) until the expiration of the time allowed for challenges and protests.

**11.6.3 Preliminary Bulletins** - Preliminary Bulletins on all matches will be posted promptly on the Official Bulletin Board and remain a reasonable length of time to allow competitors to notify the Statistical Office of apparent errors. The challenge closing time will be stated on each bulletin. However, where a bulletin board is used and all scores of competitors are copied thereon, such will be accepted in lieu of the above, provided a notice appears as to the close of challenge time.

**11.6.4 Official Bulletins** - Official Bulletins will be posted on the Official Bulletin Board. However, in the procedure outlined in Rule 11.6.3 for bulletin boards, such scores shall be acceptable and become final after the

elapse of the challenge time period and shall act as an Official Bulletin.

**11.6.5 Correction of Bulletin Errors** - The Statistical Office will correct errors which come to the attention of the office prior to publication of the Official Bulletin.

**11.6.6 Changing Official Bulletins** - No Official Bulletin shall be changed except on authority of the Match Director, Official Referee or Jury. Granted before the time has expired for challenging the last of the preliminary bulletins required to cover all the scheduled events. Subsequent changes from the Match Director, Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor requesting a change, are limited to correction of:

- (a) Typographical errors.
- (b) Aggregate bulletins on which total score does not agree with the scores as shown on the Official Bulletins for the matches constituting the Aggregate.
- (c) Where an error has been made by not following the program schedule of awards.
- (d) Errors in classification of competitors, the competitor having been previously advised of such error and of correct classification.
- (e) Disqualification of competitors as provided by Rule 9.30.

**11.6.7 Individual Squadding** - Where advance entries are received, squadding for all matches may be made in advance. Competitors may be squadded so they move a predetermined distance along the firing line after each match. They may be squadded as to class, but wherever practical all of a class should fire on the same relay. Where post entries are received, they may be squadded as fill-ins to the above. Squadding of classes together will be permitted as outlined above.

**11.6.8 Team Squadding** - All team matches will be squadded with one or 2 adjacent targets assigned to each team and where possible all teams will fire concurrently. When enough targets are available, more than 2 adjacent targets may be assigned each team but only when all teams can be squadded so as to fire concurrently. Coaching within the team is permitted in team matches.

Team targets may be assigned by the Statistical Officer, or drawn by chance by the Team Captains under the supervision of the Statistical Officer or Chief Range Officer.

Team score cards will show the names of Team Officers, and each firing member and alternate.

Except in matches where the targets have been marked with the competitor's name or number, Team Captains may assign team members to team targets in such order as he desires and may change the order of firing between stages.

**11.6.10 Range Assignment Cards** - When used, range assignment cards are prepared by the Statistical Office and delivered to the Range Officers prior to each match. Range Officers check competitors on the firing line to ascertain that each is on the proper firing point as indicated by the range assignment card. Should any reassignment of competitors be necessary on the firing line Range Officers will carefully note such reassignments in the space provided on the range assignment card. These cards will be turned in to the Statistical Office immediately upon the conclusion of each relay.

**11.7 Target Officer** - The targets and frames are under the command of the Chief Target Officer and such Assistant Target Officers as may be required. Target Officers are under the command of the Chief Range Officer. The Target Officer is responsible for the safety and discipline of personnel engaged in the handling of the targets. He is responsible for the maintenance of targets in proper condition and for the efficient mounting and dismounting of paper targets during the progress of the match. When targets (either with or without backing cards) are framed for the competitor, the Target Officer is responsible:

- (a) That record and backing target agree.
- (b) That targets are properly framed as to firing point assignment.

- (c) That after firing, all targets and backing cards are properly dismantled and paired according to target point number, in proper order.
- (d) That targets are arranged in numerical order.
- (e) That all targets are promptly returned to the Statistical Office at the completion of each relay or displayed on racks in proper order.

*When targets are framed by the competitor, it is the competitor's responsibility that the correct target for the range and position being fired is framed. Note: Refer to Rule 18.15(e).*

**11.8 National Championship Protest Committee** - A National Championship Protest Committee may be appointed by the Match Director at any NRA National Championship. When such a Championship Protest Committee is appointed, decisions on Protests by that Committee at the Championship are final, without appeal to the NRA Protest Committee. When possible cases of suspension from competition arise from an incident or incidents in a Championship, the Championship Protest Committee may not act, but must forward a recommendation to the NRA Protest Committee for action. No member of the National Championship Protest Committee may be a competitor in that Tournament.

A protest procedure must begin no later than one hour after the completion of firing for the day. In the case of awards, the protest must begin no later than one half hour after the completion of the awards ceremony.

**11.9 Duty to Competitors** - It shall be the duty of all operating officials and personnel to properly conduct themselves by being fair and impartial to all in carrying out their various duties. No official shall molest a competitor nor allow such practice by another official or other competitors. Should a competitor's equipment or demeanor warrant disqualification for an individual match or tournament, it should be done in such a manner as will cause the least inconvenience to all concerned. In so doing, the official should state to the competitor the Rule or section of Rules under which the disqualification is being made.

## 12. TEAM OFFICER'S DUTIES AND POSITION

**12.1 Team Captain** - Each team must have a designated Team Captain. He is responsible for maintaining discipline within his team. He will at all times cooperate with the officials of the tournament in the interest of safety, efficiency and good sportsmanship. A Team Captain is responsible for all the duties and actions of the members of his team. It is his responsibility to:

- (a) Be familiar with the program.
- (b) Make proper entries.
- (c) Have team members report at the proper firing point at the right time, ready to fire.
- (d) Perform usual coaching duties.
- (e) Check team scores, sign team scorecards and make challenges.
- (f) Check Preliminary and Official Bulletins and Match Director's Bulletins.
- (g) Make protests.
- (h) Collect awards.

**12.2 Team Coach** - The Team Coach is the Team Captain's deputy, performing such duties as the Captain may assign to him. The Coach serves as Team Captain in the absence of the latter, and under such circumstances becomes responsible for maintaining discipline within the team and for all other responsibilities of the Team Captain.

**12.3 Team Entries** - In team matches, the Team Officers, all firing members of the team, and alternate firing members if allowed by the match program must be named on the entry form before the first shot of the match is fired. If the Team Captain or Coach is also a firing member, he must be so named. (See Rule 2. 10.)

**12.4 Substitution of Alternates** - If alternates are allowed and have been named on the entry form, the Team Captain may substitute an alternate for a firing member at any time before the firing member concerned has fired his or her first shot of the match (sighting or record), notifying the scorer and a Range Officer accordingly. After a team member has fired the first shot, he/she may be substituted for only in case of disabling emergencies such as accident or illness, and then only if approved by the Chief Range Officer. All shots fired by the replaced shooter count; the replacement fires only the uncompleted portion of the replaced shooter's course of fire.

**12.5 Team Captains and Coach, Position** - In team matches where coaching is permitted by the match program, the Team Captain or Coach will be allowed on the firing line in such position as not to interfere with the proper operation of the range or with any member of another team.

**12.6 Coaching in Team Matches** - Coaching on the firing line is permitted only when clearly stated in the match program of NRA team matches and must be kept within the team (a team shall include the Team Captain, the Team Coach and the team firing members). The Coach may assist the team members by calling shots, checking time, checking scoring, ordering sight changes, etc., but will not physically assist the shooter in loading, cocking the air rifle or making sight corrections. He must control voice and actions so as not to disturb other competitors.

### 13. PHYSICALLY DISABLED SHOOTERS

**13.1 Physically Disabled Shooters** - A shooter who, because of physical handicap, cannot fire from one or more of the prescribed shooting positions outlined in these Rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, is privileged to petition position in the NRA Protest Committee 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 person concerned to the Committee outlining in detail the reasons why the special equipment must be used. The petition will be accompanied by pictures of the shooter in the position he desires approved and, if special equipment is required, the pictures 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 handicap is not completely evident in the pictures submitted.

- (a) Each petition will be reviewed by the NRA Protest Committee. The committee may require additional or supplementary statement, medical information, or pictures. If approved, the NRA Secretary will issue a special authorization certificate to the individual concerned. Such certificates will have necessary pictures attached.
- (b) Shooters who have received special authorization certificates will be required to carry them when competing in competitions governed by NRA Rules, and to present the certificates when requested by officials of the competition or by NRA Official Referees or Supervisors.
- (c) In the event of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a shooter, the Official Referee, Jury or Match Director will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the shooter. If the shooter's position or equipment does not, in the opinion of the officials, conform to that authorized by the NRA Secretary (or if the shooter has no authorized certificate or pictures), the protest shall be allowed and the shooter will be required to change immediately to the position or equipment which has been approved or to an otherwise legal position or equipment.
- (d) Should a protest be carried beyond the Official Referee, Jury or Match Director, the original protest will be endorsed by the Referee, Jury Chairman or Match Director to show the action he has taken and will be forwarded to the National Rifle Association.
- (e) National Records may not be established by use of scores fired in special positions or with special equipment as may be authorized according to this Rule.
- (f) Two types of authorizations are issued; temporary and permanent. Permanent authorizations are issued to competitors who are permanently handicapped.

**13.2 Temporary Disability and Substitute Position** - Any person who has a temporary physical disability, as substantiated by a current written medical opinion, which prevents him from using a specified position as defined in this Rule, may assume the next more difficult position in lieu of that position. In this manner, sitting may be used for prone, kneeling may be used for sitting, and standing may be used for kneeling. Any substitute position must conform to the rule which defines it. The Match Director must be informed of the substitute, and may require that the substitute position be demonstrated so he may be certain that it meets the definition of the appropriate rule.

## 14. SCORING AND MARKING

**14.1 When to Score** - Usually targets are scored after 10 shots or after 20 shots. Special conditions may require other than this usual procedure. Before scoring any target, examine it and count the hits to determine whether there are hits of uncertain value requirement gauging, misses, or possible ricochet hits.

**14.2 Where to Score** - Targets may be scored in the Statistical Office or on the range in view of competitors and spectators.

**14.2.1 Targets As Scorecards** - Targets constitute the scorecards when scored in the Statistical Office and therefore must be retained in good order until the time allowed for filing challenges and protests has expired.

**14.3 How to Score** - A shot hole, the leaded edge of which comes in contact with the outside of the bullseye or scoring rings of a target, is given the higher value. If a competitor fails to hit any target (shots outside the scoring ring) that shot will be scored as a miss (zero). A scoring gauge will be used to determine the value of close shots. The higher value will be allowed in those cases where the flange on the gauge touches the scoring ring, see Figure 7, except that when the Air Rifle II outward" scoring plug gauge is used, the higher value is awarded when the flange fails to touch the outside edge of the next scoring ring out, see Figure 8. All shot holes with an estimated value greater than 2 shall be scored with the outward gauge (b) described below.

No scoring gauge will be used unless the diameter of the scoring flange is within these limits:

- (a) Air Rifle, .177 - .179 (4.5 - 4.55 mm).
- (b) Air Rifle gauge for "outside" scoring, 5.45 - 5.50 mm.

(See Illustrations)

**14.3.1 Use of Plug Type Scoring Gauges** - Shots in dispute shall be scored with the aid of a "plug" type scoring gauge. When the accurate use of a plug is made difficult by the close proximity of another pellet hole or torn paper, the shot value shall be determined by means of an engraved gauge or some flat, transparent material to aid in reconstructing the position of a scoring ring or number of pellet holes which may develop. (A .177 air gun plastic scoring aid - CT17190 - from the NRA is available or a magnifying device with the same dimensions as the CT17190 may be used).

- (a) Except as provided herein, the plug gauge may be inserted only once in a pellet hole.
- (b) When the two initial scorers disagree, a decision from a scoring supervisor shall be requested immediately and before the plug is removed. After inspecting the plugged shot hole, the scoring supervisor shall indicate his decision by writing "+" or "-" on the target to indicate whether the shot goes to the higher or lower value. All three scoring officials shall initial the target.
- (c) When two scorers agree, they shall indicate their decision by writing "+" or "-" on the target. Both scoring officials shall initial the target.
- (d) No challenge may be made against a shot value which has been determined with the aid of a plug gauge except:
  - (1) in air rifle competitions where two scoring officials are not used to evaluate plugged shots;
  - (2) targets which do not bear the appropriate "+" or "-" markings and initials may be challenged and replugged;
  - (3) if the value of the shot is incorrectly noted based on the "+" or "-" decision.

**14.3.2 Scoring Inner Tens** - Inner tens must be scored when necessary to break ties. (See Rule 15.3.) Air Rifle 10 meter targets (AR5/1, AR-5/5, AR-5/10) inner tens are scored as follows: when the ten ring (dot) has been shot out completely as determined by the use of a 4.5 mm air rifle plug gauge.

**14.3.3 Electronic Scoring** - Electronic scoring machines are authorized.

**14.4 Misses** - Hits outside the scoring rings are scored as misses. Any release of the propelling charge, after the first competition target is in place, without the pellet hitting the target, whether a pellet has been loaded or not, will be scored as a miss.

*"Dry Firing" means the release of the cocked trigger mechanism of an unloaded rifle or the release of the trigger mechanism of a gun fitted with a device, which enables the trigger to be operated without discharging the gun.*

**14.5 Early or Late Shots** - If any shots are fired before the command to "COMMENCE FIRING," or after the command to "CEASE FIRING," the shots of highest value equal to the number fired in error will be scored as misses.

**14.6 All Hits Count** - All shots fired by the competitor (hits outside the sighting bull) after having taken a position at the firing point will be counted in his/her score, even if the rifle is accidentally discharged, except the first sighting shot on a target according to Rule 9.2.2.

**14.7 Hits on Wrong Target** -

- (a) If a competitor fires a sighting shot on the sighting target of another competitor, he shall not be penalized.
- (b) If a competitor fires a sighting shot on the record target of another shooter, he shall be penalized by deduction of two points from his own score.
- (c) Any crossfire of a record shot onto another shooter's target will be scored as a miss (zero).

**14.8 Ricochets** - A hole made by a ricochet pellet does not count as a hit and will not be scored.

**14.9 (Blank)**

**14.10 Excessive Hits** -

- (a) If a competitor fires more shots on a record bullseye than provided for in the program, he shall not be penalized for the first two (2) occurrences in the tournament. For the third (3rd) and all succeeding shots, he shall be penalized by the deduction of two points for each occurrence, starting with the first target in the series/position. The competitor must fire a correspondingly fewer number of shots at the succeeding bullseye in the same match.
- (b) If there are more hits on the shooter's record target than are provided for in the program, and it is impossible to confirm that another shooter(s) fired the shot(s), then the corresponding to the number of surplus shots, the hits of the highest value shall be nullified. When using AR-5/10 or AR-5/5 targets, the nullified hits will come from the target with the extra shots. When using AR5/1, electronic targets, or rolls of targets, the extra shots at the end of the string will be nullified.

**14.11 Scoring Altered Targets** - Targets intentionally altered, or marked to benefit a shooter over other competitors, will not be scored.

## 15. DECISIONS OF TIES

**15.1 Match** - The term "match" as used in this section refers to all individual, team, and aggregate matches.

**15.2 Numbering of Bullseyes** - For the purpose of ranking tie scores, the bullseye numbers printed on NRA official targets will be considered to run in consecutive sequence throughout the entire course of fire, even though all targets for an event may not be framed at one time.

**15.3 Breaking Tie Scores** - Competitors having the same numerical score over the entire course of fire will be ranked in order:

- (a) The highest score of the last 10 shots fired working forward by 10-shot strings until the tie is broken.
- (b) The highest number of 10s, 9s, 8s, etc.
- (c) The highest number of inner 10s or center shots.
- (d) Ties for the 4th through all remaining award placing will be broken as in Rule 15.3(e) except that if the tie still cannot be broken in this manner, the competitors will be listed with equal rank, in alphabetical order using the competitor's surname. An appropriate number of spaces will be left vacant below the tied position before the next ranking is listed.
- (e) Ties occurring below the final award winning place will be listed with equal rank in alphabetical order using the competitor's surname. An appropriate number of spaces will be left vacant below the tied position before the next rank is listed.

**15.7 Team Matches** - Ties in team matches will be ranked in the order shown below:

- (a) By considering team score as though it were a single individual score fired by an individual.
- (b) Apply Rule 15.3 to the total score.
- (c) If a team score includes a score achieved on a written test, by considering only the fired score.

**15.17 Unbreakable Ties** - In case a tie cannot be ranked as provided in this section the Match Director will direct the awards to be given under one of the following plans:

- (a) By the firing of a complete or partial score under the original match conditions,
- (b) By drawing lots for merchandise, medal or trophy awards and pooling and equally dividing award points or cash awards to which those tied may be entitled.

## 16. CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

**16.1 Challenges** - When a competitor feels that a match fired by himself or by another competitor has been improperly evaluated or scored, the competitor may challenge the score. A challenge must be made within the challenge time. It shall be the challenging person's privilege to inspect the target during or following the re-check.

- (a) A challenge fee of not more than \$3.00 may be charged to all competitors making challenges. The challenge fee will be collected before making the first re-check of the challenged score. If the competitor's challenge is sustained at any point along the line of re-checks, the challenge fee will be returned. If the challenge is lost, the challenge fee will be included in the general revenue of the tournament. In NRA competition to which the NRA assigns a Referee, Jury, or Supervisor, the decision of the Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor will be final.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the tournament sponsor to state in the program or by Special Bulletin Board notice the time limits within which a challenge may be made.
- (c) When targets are scored in the Statistical Office or on display racks, the re-checks will be made by the Chief Statistical Officer (provided he has not previously scored or checked the target) and the Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor in that order.
- (d) The Match Director may at his discretion re-check any competitor's target by an administrative challenge. Such a challenge must be made within the posted challenge period and checked by the Referee or Jury.
- (e) Fired matches are challenged by total score, not individual shots, targets or stages.

**16.1.1 Administrative Challenges** - Competitors may request the Chief Statistical Officer to verify addition of scores without payment of a fee. If a competitor discovers a discrepancy between the value marked on a target and the score recorded on a scorecard, scoreboard, result list or bulletin, he may request the Chief Statistical Officer to verify the score. Provided that no scoring challenge is made with respect to the evaluation of the target, the score marked on the target will be considered accurate and the scorecard, scoreboard, result list or bulletin will be corrected.

**16.2 Protests** - A competitor may protest formally:

- (a) Any injustice which the shooter or coach feels has been done except the evaluation of a target, which he/she may challenge as outlined in Rule 16.1.
- (b) The conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to fire.
- (c) The equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use.

**16.2.1 Authority of Protest Committee** - National Championships 33 Protest Committees or juries may be established at National Championships to rule on protests arising from activities at those sites. (See Rule 11. 8.) However, the decisions of these special protest committees or juries shall not contravene prior interpretations of the NRA Rules and/or precedents established by the NRA Protest Committee.

**16.3 How to Protest** - A protest must be initiated immediately upon the occurrence of the protested incident. Failure to comply with the following procedure will automatically void the protest:

- (a) State the complaint orally to the Chief Range or Chief Statistical Officer. If not satisfied with his decision then,
- (b) State the complaint orally to the Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor. If not satisfied with his decision then,
- (c) File a formal protest in writing with the Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor stating all the facts in the case. Such written protest must be filed within 12 hours of the occurrence of the protested incident.
- (d) The Official Referee, Jury, or Supervisor will then forward the protest with a complete statement of facts within 48 hours of receipt thereof to the Protest Committee at NRA Headquarters.

- (e) At National Championships, a competitor must state his complaint orally to the Chief Range Officer or Chief Statistical Officer and if not satisfied with his decision, the competitor must file a written protest with the Match Director. If the competitor is not satisfied with the Match Director's decision on the matter, the Match Director will forward the protest to the Protest Committee along with a written statement of his decision. The decision of the Protest Committee at the National Championships is final.

A protest procedure must begin no later than one hour after the completion of firing for the day. In the case of awards, the protest must begin no later than one half hour after the completion of the awards ceremony.

#### **16.4 Challenges and Protests in Team Matches -**

- (a) Must be made by the Team Captain. Team members who believe they have reason to challenge or protest will state the facts to their Captain who will make the official challenge or protest if he/she feels such action is justified.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of tournament sponsors to state in the program or by Special Bulletin Board notice that team challenge fees shall:
  - (1) Not exceed \$3.00 per team score, or,
  - (2) Not exceed \$3.00 per team member's score

## 17. NATIONAL RECORDS

NOTE: In order for records to be reorganized promptly, National Record Reporting forms must be submitted to NRA by the Statistical Officer of the Tournament after being certified by the Jury accompanied by the targets and Tournament Result Bulletin. National Record Reporting forms are mailed to sponsors of NRA Registered Tournaments by NRA Headquarters.

**17.1 Where Scores for National Records Can Be Fired** - To be recognized as National Records, scores must be fired in an NRA Registered Tournament. National Records must be approved by the NRA before being declared Official.

**17.2 Scores Used** - Scores must be complete scores for an entire scheduled match. Stage scores or scores for only part of a match will not be used for records.

**17.3 Scores for National Individual Records** - Such scores may be fired in individual matches. National Records will be recognized only when the competitor has entered such match.

**17.4 Scores for National Team Records** - Such scores must be fired in matches where teams fire as a unit. National Records will be recognized only when the team concerned entered such a match. National Records will not be recognized for "pick up" teams (teams made up of shooters who do not all represent one of the groups outlined in Rules 2.11).

### 17.5 Courses of Fire for Which National Records Are Recognized -

*Note: National Air Rifle Records are maintained for scores fired with metallic sights over the following courses for "Open", "Civilian", "Woman", "Senior", "JROTC", "Junior", "Intermediate Junior", and "Sub-Junior".*

(a) Individual Position:

- (1) 20 Shots Prone
- (2) 20 Shots Sitting
- (3) 20 Shots Kneeling
- (4) 20 Shots Standing
- (5) An aggregate of 20 Shots each in Prone, Kneeling & Standing
- (6) An aggregate of 20 Shots each in Prone, Sitting, Kneeling & Standing

(b) Four (4) member Team:

- (1) Team aggregate in 3-Position (Prone, Kneeling & Standing)
- (2) Team aggregate in 4-Position (Prone, Kneeling & Standing)

(c) When targets are scored in the Statistical Office or on display racks, the re-checks will be made by the Chief Statistical Officer (provided he has not previously scored or checked the target) and the Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor in that order.

(d) The Match Director may at his discretion re-check any competitor's target by an administrative challenge. Such a challenge must be made within the posted challenge period and checked by the Referee or Jury.

(e) Fired matches are challenged by total score, not individual shots, targets or stages.

## 18. COMPETITORS' DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Note: The following competitors' duties are in addition to those specified elsewhere throughout these Rules.

**18.1 Discipline** - It is the duty of each shooter and coach to sincerely cooperate with tournament officials in the effort to conduct a safe, efficient tournament. Shooters and coaches are expected to promptly call the attention of proper officials to any infraction of rules of safety or good sportsmanship. Failure of a shooter or coach to cooperate in such matters or to give testimony when called upon to do so in any case arising out of infractions of these Rules may result in said shooter or coach being considered as an accessory to the offense.

**18.2 Knowledge of Program** - It is the competitor's responsibility to be familiar with the program. Officials cannot be held responsible for a competitor's failure to obtain and familiarize himself with the program. When targets are framed by the competitor, it is the competitor's responsibility to mount the correct target for the range and position being fired.

**18.3 Eligibility** - It is the competitor's duty to enter only those events for which he/she is eligible and to enter himself in the proper classifications.

**18.4 Classification** - It is the competitor's duty to have his current Classification Card in his possession when entering a competition using a classification system. Unclassified competitors must obtain a Score Record Book from the Official Referee, Supervisor, or Tournament Officials.

**18.5 Individual Entries** - In individual matches it is the duty of the competitor to make his or her own entries on the forms and in the manner prescribed for that tournament. Errors due to illegibility or improper filling out of the forms are solely the competitor's responsibility. The Statistical Office is not required to accept corrections after the entry closing time.

**18.6 Squadding Tickets** - It is the duty of the competitor to secure his squadding ticket of each match (or to consult the squadding bulletin) in ample time to permit reporting at the proper time and place to fire each match. It is not the duty of officials to page competitors in order to get them on the firing line. Competitors, upon receipt of squadding tickets, should inspect them for correctness of competitor's number and non-interference in squadding assignment. Errors should be reported to the Statistical Officer immediately.

**18.7 Reporting at Firing Point** - Competitors must report at their assigned firing point immediately when the relay is called by the Range Officer. The proper rifle for that particular match must be ready and in safe firing condition. Time will not be allowed for rifle repairs, or search for missing equipment after a relay has been called to the firing line. (See Rule 10.1.5).

**18.8 Timing** - The timing of the firing of a stage (within the official time limit) is the competitor's responsibility. See Rule 8.4.

**18.9 Loading** - No competitor will load an air rifle except at the firing line, and only after the proper commands are given by the Range Officer.

**18.10 Cease Firing** - Competitors must obey this command immediately whether or not they have finished firing. Even though pressure has been applied to the trigger, pressure must be released so that the shot will not be fired.

**18.11 Checking Scores** - Competitors must check their scores promptly in the Preliminary Bulletin and call attention to errors within the time specified at that tournament. Failure to check scores within the challenge time limit forfeits the right to challenge.

**18.12 Clearing the Firing Point** - It is the competitor's duty to leave the firing point promptly at the conclusion of his/her relay. When leaving the firing point, air rifles must be unloaded and actions open.

**18.13 Checking the Bulletin Board** - It is the duty of all competitors and coaches to check the Bulletin Board between matches. The Statistical Officer must be notified immediately of apparent errors. Official Bulletins must be checked and the Statistical Officer notified of any discrepancies between the Preliminary and Official Bulletins. Match Director's Bulletins on the Bulletin Board have the same effect as conditions printed in a program. It is the duty of competitors and coaches to familiarize themselves with all such Match Director's Bulletins.

**18.15 Responsibility** - It shall be the competitor's responsibility:

- (a) That all equipment meets all rules and match specifications in any match in which that equipment is to be used.
- (b) That competitor's position conforms to the rules.
- (c) That competitor has full knowledge of the rules under which the match is fired.
- (d) That after due warning of any infraction of existing rules, that competitor shall understand that a repetition thereof shall be the subject of disqualification for that match or tournament.
- (e) That when targets are framed by the competitor, the correct target for the range and position being fired is framed.
- (f) That his or her target is not altered intentionally or with special marks which benefit him in any way. Scores fired on such targets will be disqualified.

## 19. CLASSIFICATION

**19.1 Classified Competitors** - Are all individuals who are officially classified by the NRA for Sporter Air Rifle competition, or who have a record of scores fired over courses of fire used for classification (See Rule 19.4) which have been recorded in a Score Record Book.

**19.2 Unclassified Competitor** - Is a competitor who does not have a current NRA classification, either regular or temporary by Score Record Book (Rule 19.14), nor an "Assigned Classification" (Rule 19.6). Such a competitor shall compete in the Master Class.

**19.4 Scores Used for Individual Classification** - Scores to be used for classification and reclassification will be those fired in individual and team matches in both indoor and outdoor NRA competition (except Postal Matches) over the following courses of fire and under the indicated conditions:

- (a) Sporter Air Rifle: Individual 3-position.
- (b) Sporter Air Rifle: Individual 4-position.

Scores from Sanctioned Leagues (shoulder-to-shoulder or postal) may be recorded during the league firing season in Score Record Books but will only be used by the NRA Headquarters Office at the end of the league firing season for issue of Official Classification Cards.

Scores from "Finals" will not be used for classification.

**19.4.1 Expanded Classification System for Juniors (Rule 2.3 only)** - A match sponsor may use an expanded or a different classification system for Junior shooters. Within that system, coaching may be allowed by the sponsor. However, the scores fired in classes that allow coaching will not be used for National Records or National standings, but shall be reported for NRA classification purposes.

**19.5 Compilation of Scores for Position Air Rifle Classification Averages** - Scores fired in complete matches over the above courses will be combined and averaged to establish a competitor's classification.

**19.6 Assigned Classification** - A competitor who has an earned classification (a classification obtained through a Score Record Book or an Official NRA Classification Card) for one type of competition in the grouping listed below will be assigned this same classification in any competition in which he does not already have an earned or assigned classification.

- (a) Indoor 4-Position
- (b) Outdoor 4-Position
- (c) NRA 3-Position Indoor
- (d) NRA 3-Position Outdoor
- (e) Outdoor Prone
- (f) High Power Rifle
- (g) Int'l Small bore Rifle (Indoor) (h) Int'l Smallbore Rifle (Outdoor) (i) Int'l Big Bore Rifle
- (j) International Prone
- (k) International Air Rifle
- (l) Precision Air Rifle

If the competitor has a classification in more than one type in the list, the higher classification shall be used. In the second tournament in the new type, the competitor will use his Score Record Book rather than an assigned classification.

**19.6.1 Score and Classification Falsification** - No competitor will falsify score, or classification, nor that of any other competitor, nor be an accessory thereto.

**19.7 Lack of Classification Evidence** - It is the competitor's responsibility to have his NRA Official Classification Card or Score Record Book with required scores for temporary classification (Rules 19.1 and 19.14) and to present classification evidence when required. Any competitor who cannot present such evidence will fire in the Master Class. A competitor's classification will not change during a tournament. A competitor will enter a tournament under the correct classification and fire the entire tournament in that class. Should it be discovered during a tournament that a competitor has entered in a class lower than is appropriate, the tournament records will be corrected to show the correct classification for the entire tournament.

**19.8 Competing In a Higher Class** - Any individual or team may elect, before firing, to compete in a higher classification than the one in which classified. Such individual or team must fire in such higher class throughout the tournament and not revert to earned classification for any event in that tournament.

**19.9 Obsolete Classifications and Scores** - All classifications and scores (including temporary, Rule 19.14) except Master, shall become obsolete if the competitor does not fire in NRA competition at least once during 3 successive calendar years. Master classifications and scores shall become obsolete if the competitor does not fire in NRA competition at least once during 5 successive calendar years.

**19.10 Appeals** - Any competitor having reason to believe they are improperly classified may file an appeal with the NRA stating all essential facts. Such appeal will be reviewed by the NRA Protest Committee.

**19.11 Protests** - Any person who believes that another competitor has been improperly classified may file a protest with the NRA stating all essential facts. Such protests will be reviewed by the NRA Protest Committee.

**19.12 Team Classification** - Teams are classified by computing the "team average" based on the classification of each firing member of the team. To compute this "team average" the key in Table No. 1 for the different classes will be used for both outdoor and indoor competition and the team total divided by the number of firing members of the team. Any fractional figure in the team average of one half or more will place the team in the next higher class. The "team average" will establish classification of a team as a unit but will not affect in any way the individual classification of team members.

**TABLE NO. 1 - TEAM**

| Class                  | Key |
|------------------------|-----|
| Master . . . . .       | 4   |
| Expert . . . . .       | 3   |
| Sharpshooter . . . . . | 2   |
| Marksman . . . . .     | 1   |

**19.13 Reporting Scores** - NRA indoor and outdoor competition (See Rule 1.6) sponsors will report to the NRA all individual and fired team match scores fired over the courses stated in Rule 19.4. Scores will be reported as aggregate totals for all matches completed by a competitor. Scores will be reported by each sponsor no more than 30 days after the completion of the match and by each NRA Sanctioned League at the completion of the league schedule. The SR-IA Score Reporting Card will be used to report all scores.

**19.14 Score Record Book (Temporary Classification)** - A Score Record Book will be obtained by each unclassified competitor from the Official Referee, Supervisor, or tournament Statistical Office at time the 37 competitor competes in his first tournament or from the Secretary of a Sanctioned League. He will record all scores fired by himself in all NRA competition (except Postal Matches) until such time as he receives his Official NRA Classification Card. The competitor will total all scores and divide that total by the number of 10shot strings represented. The average so obtained will determine the competitor's NRA Classification at that time (See Rule 19.15 for average score for each classification).

Individual and team scores fired by the competitor during at least one tournament (Rule I. I) or from the most recent league match (Rule 1.6) must be posted in the Score Record Book to establish a temporary classification. The Score Record Book will be presented by the holder at all NRA competition entered until the competitor's Official NRA Classification Card becomes effective.

NOTE: It is the competitor's responsibility to obtain the Score Record Book, enter scores and present it at each tournament until his Official NRA Classification Card becomes effective. When the NRA Classification Card becomes effective the Score Record Book becomes obsolete.

**19.15 Individual Class Averages** - Competitors will be classified as follows and NRA Classification Cards issued accordingly:

**SPORTER AIR RIFLE POSITION**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Master . . . . .       | 90.00 and above |
| Expert . . . . .       | 85.00 to 89.99  |
| Sharpshooter . . . . . | 80.00 to 84.99  |
| Marksman . . . . .     | Below 80.00     |

**19.16 Establishing Classification** - A competitor will be officially classified by the NRA when the total score for a minimum of 120 shots has been reported. However, classification averages will be computed only after the total score for a tournament or league has been posted and, therefore, the average may be based on a greater number of shots, but will not be based upon a lesser number. Total scores so reported to the NRA will be posted to the Classification Card for the competitor concerned. The scores for the stated minimum number of shots (or more if this minimum is reached during the scores of any tournament or league) have been posted so the average score per 10shot string will be computed. The competitor will be sent an Official NRA Classification Card based on the averages so computed and according to the table in Rule 19.15. This classification will become effective the date shown on the card issued by the NRA.

**19.17 Reclassification** - A competitor who has been classified by the NRA will be reclassified as follows:

- (a) A record of all completed (see Rule 19.9) NRA Competition (except individual Postal Matches) scores fired by a classified competitor will be maintained in the NRA Headquarters.
- (b) A competitor will be considered for reclassification upward when his scores for not less than 120 shots, fired subsequent to the tournament date at which he earned his current classification, have been recorded as prescribed, except that such consideration will not include tournament or league scores until after all scores for the tournament or league competition concerned have been recorded. If his average score so justifies, he will be reclassified upward accordingly.
- (c) A competitor who believes his classification is too high may file a request with the NRA that his classification be lowered. Such a competitor must remain in the class concerned until a minimum 360 shots, fired subsequent to the effective date of his current classification have been recorded. When the average of such shots places the competitor in a lower class, he will be reclassified accordingly. When a competitor has been so classified downward, and by scores fired in NRA competition (except NRA Postal Matches) has again earned his former classification, such classification shall become final and the competitor shall retain the earned classification until reclassified into a higher class as outlined in paragraph (b).
- (d) A reclassified competitor shall be sent a new classification card which will become effective on date shown on card issued by NRA.

## 20. NRA OFFICIAL REFEREE

**20.1 Eligibility** - Any member of the National Rifle Association 21 years of age or older who fulfills the requirements currently in effect may be certified as an Official Referee.

### 20.2 Certification -

- (a) To be certified as an Official Referee, applicants must undertake such oral, written or practical examination as the Association may require. The Board of Directors of the Association will be the final judge as to applicant's fitness for certification. Certification may be refused without stating cause.
- (b) Certificates will remain in force for such periods as maybe indicated on the face thereof. Certificates may be surrendered by the holder or canceled by the Association at any time without stating cause.
- (c) Re-examination maybe required at anytime to determine the Official Referee's current ability to meet the requirements.
- (d) Official Referees may be authorized to serve with certain limitations specified in their authorization. Such limitations may be:
  - For a limited time only, or
  - For a special tournament or tournaments, or
  - Within specified territorial boundaries, or
  - For specified types of competition or classes of tournaments.
- (e) Insignia remains the property of the Association and must be returned at the termination of the Official Referee's certification.

### 20.3 Duties-General

- (a) It is the duty of the Official Referee at all times to keep informed of NRA Bylaws, current competitive rules, and match administrative procedures. He must be equipped to act as guide and counselor to every official at a tournament both on the range and in the Statistical Office, but will not give direction except through the Match Director.
- (b) He must be familiar with the various NRA qualification courses and with National Classification Rules.
- (c) He must know the requirements for individual membership in the Association and the general requirements for club affiliation.
- (d) It is his duty to report to National Headquarters any suggestions, criticisms, incidents or trends which, in his opinion, should be considered by the Association in order to promote the best interests of shooting.
- (e) He must at all times and under all circumstances remember that his value as an Official Referee is in direct ratio to his reputation for integrity, impartiality, broad knowledge of the game, courtesy, courage and sobriety. The use of alcoholic beverages while on duty cannot be condoned and their excessive use at any time will be sufficient cause for cancellation of the Official Referee's certificate.
- (f) When authorized by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, he will act as the Official Referee in matches of the CMP.

### 20.4 Duties-Before Tournament

Having accepted an assignment to serve, it is the duty of the Official Referee

- (a) Familiarize himself with the program.

- (b) Check, by mail or in person, with the Match Director of the tournament to insure that range and statistical facilities are adequate and in good order and that ample range and statistical personnel have been employed or definitely arranged for.

### **20.5 Duties-During Tournament**

- (a) Check the functioning of the Statistical Office when first opened to help establish proper registration and squadding procedure. Make sure the Statistical Office has arranged to check all competitors' current NRA membership and proper classification before issuing competitor's first squadding ticket.
- (b) Check target equipment and range personnel in company with the Match Director to insure that range will function properly.
- (c) Check with Match Director and arrange to have Official Bulletins posted immediately covering any changes or corrections which have been authorized.
- (d) Personally observe scoring and bulletin methods used when targets for the first relay are being scored and call attention to any errors before an erroneous method becomes established.
- (e) Remain constantly alert for infractions of safety or competition rules by moving over the range behind the firing line from flank to flank; observing activities of target runners, Range Officers, scorers, statistical clerks, and spectators; watching competitors handling their guns, etc.
- (f) Report immediately to the Match Director any errors in administration or infractions of rules by competitors or personnel, requesting that he have them corrected at once. If the matter is one requiring instant action, the Official Referee should direct whatever action is required and report his action and reason therefore to the Match Director as soon as that officer can be reached.
- (g) In tournaments where situations occur that are not specifically covered by an existing rule or rules, the Referee shall exercise good judgment in ruling for the best interest of the shooting sports and competitors.
- (h) Personally check with Statistical Officer at the conclusion of tournament to make sure that all bulletins have been properly completed and awards issued in accordance with the tournament program.
- (i) Forward to NRA Headquarters whatever reports may be currently required of him, including National Record Reporting forms, copies of protests, decisions, appeals and all written statements bearing on the case.
- (j) When triggers are weighed, shall weigh or supervise the weighing of triggers.

**20.6 Handling of Challenges and Protests** - Challenges and protests will be handled in the manner provided for in these Rules.

**20.7 Assignment to Tournaments** - Official Referees are assigned to tournaments by NRA Headquarters.

**20.8 Official Referee as Competitor** - No Official Referee may compete in any match fired in conjunction with any tournament where he is officiating.

### **20.9 Status of the NRA Official Referee -**

- (a) The Official Referee will not give directions to the tournament operating personnel except through the Match Director. In all emergency cases involving the safety of personnel or property, the Official Referee will act immediately and forcefully, taking full responsibility and reporting his action thereafter to the Match Director and to the National Rifle Association when making his tournament report. In the event of a disagreement between match officials, the Official Referee shall prevail at the match with recourse only to the Protest Committee.
- (b) The Official Referee is a representative of the National Rifle Association present at a tournament to interpret the rules and regulations for the benefit of both the tournament officials and the competitors. It is his duty to see that all such rules and regulations are properly and efficiently enforced. He is not

responsible for the actual administration and conduct of the tournament except to enforce the rules and regulations. It is his duty to make such suggestions and recommendations as are necessary to enable the tournament staff to operate in the most satisfactory manner.

**SPORTER AIR RIFLE ILLUSTRATIONS**



**Figure 1**



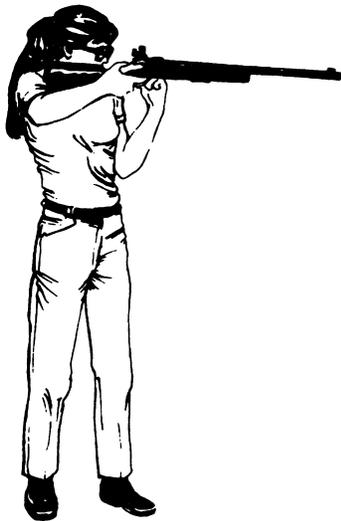
**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



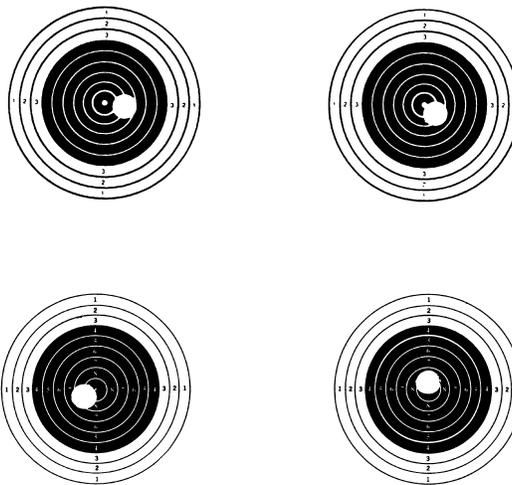
**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7** Top bulls - Inside Scoring  
Bottom bulls - Outward Scoring