



Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle

Official Rules for Competition

SSAA NSW Inc.

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Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle shooting is a character sport and participants are urged to dress in character appropriate to the period 1850-1900. The use of a Single Action style alias whilst optional is encouraged.

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The objective of this competition is to recreate the simple, low tech ways of the past by combining 19th. Century firearms and ammunition shot at various distances using fixed position steel targets. The intention is to combine elements of both Buffalo hunting on the open plains and the long range precision rifle competitions of the mid to late 19th Century.

1.2 These Rules establish uniform standards for Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle match. This competition is to be conducted in conjunction with local range and mandatory safety rules as prescribed by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), the Range Approval Licence and all applicable firearms laws.

SECTION 2: COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Club or State level

Participation in this match is open to SSAA members and their licenced guests and visitors at the discretion of the hosting club. All participants must be included on the range attendance register.

2.2 Junior competitors

A SSAA junior member is any member under the age of 18 years at the commencement of the match.

If the Discipline's Championship includes Graded and / or Junior categories, a junior competitor is eligible to compete for Junior, Grade and Open medals and awards. The winning of a Junior medal or award does not preclude a junior competitor from winning any other category of medal or award.

Junior competitors are divided into two classes:

- Under 15 years
- Under 18 years and 15 years and over

SECTION 3: COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 Match Rules

Competitors and Officials to be familiar with the Rules

3.2 Sportsmanship

Competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA.

3.3 Behaviour

Competitors should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing range during the conduct of an event. A competitor failing to observe this fact will be disciplined by the Range Officer. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor the Range Officer shall caution the offender once, and, if there is any repetition of the conduct, the competitor may be asked to immediately leave the firing line and may also be disqualified.

Any disqualification made under this Rule may be appealable under the procedure set down in Section 6.6 of these Rules.

3.4 Range Safety Rules

All competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA ranges as well as any Rules specific to the range on which a particular match is being conducted. Unsafe practices by a competitor on a SSAA range can be grounds for disqualification. Rifles cleared and removed from the line shall be securely stored in a locked vehicle unless under the owners direct supervision. Smoking within 50 feet of the shooting line shall be prohibited.

3.5 Safety Equipment

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

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

A competitor may wear medical equipment which may be seen as giving support if a medical certificate confirming the competitor's need to wear such a device for health reasons is submitted to the Match Director for approval prior to the commencement of the competition.

3.6 Rule Infringements

A competitor found to be infringing these Rules will be given a warning by the Range Officer. If the infringement continues the competitor may be suspended or disqualified from the competition being contested and their scores will not be recorded.

Safety infringements or breaches may result in immediate suspension or disqualification.

SECTION 4: DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY

The Discipline's Chairman shall have the power to direct the Host Branch/Club in the manner in which the match or championships are to be conducted, and shall have the right to interpret the Rules and requirements to ensure the match or championships are conducted in an acceptable and uniform manner.

SECTION 5: MANDATORY RULE: STUCK LIVE ROUND

If a malfunction results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range and taken to a competent person for repair. Under no circumstances is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar from the muzzle or front the cylinder.

SECTION 6: PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Rules for the Protest and Appeals Committee are common to all SSAA Disciplines and form part of each Discipline's Rule Book. The Rules are as follows:

6.1 At all registered Championships there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the host association or club organisers to hear and decide protests and appeals.

6.2 The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people, one of whom shall act as chairman, any of whom may be a competitor in the competition, but in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (notwithstanding any Rule or Rules of law to the contrary). In championships where more than one State is represented a delegate from any of the States represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the host association or club.

6.3 A protest may be lodged by any competitor who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Range Officer, the target scorers, or any other organisational matters or methods of conducting the competition. A competitor may protest the conduct of another competitor(s) or that another competitor(s) has not fulfilled their obligations according to these Rules, or has not properly obeyed the Rules.

6.4 The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a fee the amount of which shall be nominated by the organisers of the competition. If the protest or appeal is upheld, the applicant is to be refunded the amount of the fee. If the protest is disallowed, then the fee shall be forfeited to the organisers conducting the competition.

6.5 The protest is to be lodged with the Range Officer or other persons nominated by the organisers of the competition to receive appeals. A protest may be lodged during the conduct of a competition or after the competition has been completed but not later than 30 minutes after the scores for that competition have been announced or posted. When received, the protest or appeal must be given to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee as soon as possible.

6.6 The Chairman shall convene the Appeals Committee without undue delay and the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to hear evidence from the protester, the appellant and person(s) involved in the protest; to require the Range Officer, Scorers or organisers to produce targets, score sheets or other material relevant to the protest; to call evidence from any other person(s) who may be able to help the Appeals Committee and to do all such other things that the Appeals Committee believes will enable it to reach an unbiased and just decision.

6.7 Any accused person shall:

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

6.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.

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

6.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.

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

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

6.8 Immediately the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Appeals Committee Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision or post the decision on a notice board. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

Note: Desirably the Appeals Committee proceedings and deliberations should be conducted out of the public gaze and free from distractions of the ongoing competition.

SECTION 7: SSAA (NSW) INC. COMPLIANCE ADDENDUM

All match rules are approved by SSAA (NSW) Inc. on the condition that where any requirement contained in such rules exceeds or contravenes NSW State firearms law or the Range Approval Licence of the host Branch or Affiliate Club it is acceptable to modify such rules as is reasonably practicable in order to comply.

Safety is a major concern during the conduct of any shooting activity and it is expected that any Branch or Affiliate Club will operate in a safe manner at all times. It is expected that any Branch or Affiliate Club also be aware of and observe their responsibilities under NSW laws.

If the use of non-approved firearms such as a category C or D rifle or shotgun is required under the match rules then a legal category A or B firearm suitable to the match is to be substituted.

If the use of prohibited category H firearms with a barrel length less than the minimum permitted under NSW state law is required under the match rules then a legal barrel length category H handgun is to be substituted.

If the use of targets of a type not approved on the Range Approval Licence is required under the match rules then only approved targets shall be used in the conduct of that match.

SSAA (NSW) Inc. seeks to ensure the conduct of safe, sanctioned and insured matches by its Branches and Affiliate Clubs across NSW.

SECTION 8: EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION

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

8.1 Rifle - Any safe, original or modern reproduction, breech loading rifle designed as a single shot. They must be originals or replicas of single shot rifles designed during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. All rifles **MUST** have exposed hammers and must be .375" bore size or larger. Spring-loaded ejectors are also prohibited, except for Springfield Trapdoor and H & R break action rifles. Bolt action rifles are specifically not allowed. Original or modern reproduction muzzle loading rifles may also be allowed at the discretion of the Match Director or Chief Range Officer. Safe triggers are required. Electronic triggers and adjustable butt plates are prohibited. Only one rifle shall be used for the entire match. In the event of a failure which cannot be rectified the Match Director may authorise a substitute rifle to complete the match.

8.2 Sights

- Metallic sight - Any period metallic sights are allowed. No optics other than sight correcting shooting glasses are permitted.
- Telescopic sight – scoped rifles can participate at the discretion of the Match Director but are not eligible for any prizes unless a scoped category has been included in the match.
- Any Scope and mounts used must be of period design and operation.

8.3 Crossed Sticks

Crossed sticks constructed of two wooden legs, no greater than 1 inch by 2 inches in thickness and width or 1-1/2 inches in diameter, and bolted or tied so that the two legs are hinged and capable of pivoting. The end of the legs may be equipped with spikes no more than 3 inches in length and no wider than the edge of the crossed stick. They may be inserted into the ground by hand pressure only to aid in retention of an upright position. This may be waived by the Match Director to fit local conditions. One layer of protective material may be suspended or inserted in the "V" of the crossed sticks to protect the rifle. Modern attached bipods or similar are not allowed.

8.4 Ammunition – Blackpowder or nitro loads may be used. In the 'spirit of the game' black powder is preferable.

- Muzzle velocity no greater than 1500 fps.
- Bullets and Patching - No restrictions are placed on the weight or the shape of the bullet. Bullets may be lubricated or cloth or paper patched and must be entirely composed of lead or lead alloy. Non-lead or non-lead alloy metallic gas checks, metallic half-jackets or metallic full-jackets are not allowed.
- Non-metallic wads and or fillers may be used.
- Match Officials may, at their discretion, select one or more loaded cartridges at random, pull the bullet and check the contents.

8.5 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 and regulations, are forbidden. The Match Director or Chief Range Officer shall have the right to examine a shooter's equipment or apparel. The responsibility shall be upon the competitor to submit questionable equipment and apparel for official inspection and approval in sufficient time prior to the beginning of a match so that it will not inconvenience either the competitor or the official.

Shooting shall only be allowed from the offhand standing position, from a seated position on the ground or from a low stool or similar apparatus without a supportive back. The match director may approve the use of a stool or chair with a back if satisfied that a competitor could not otherwise participate in the match.

8.6 Eye Protection - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the firing line are to wear eye protection devices.

8.7 Ear Protection - All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are urged to wear hearing protection devices. Only sound reducing devices may be worn by competitors on the firing line. Radios, tape recorders, or any type of sound producing or communication systems are prohibited on the firing line.

8.8 Cleaning - Cleaning from the breech between shots and the use of blow tubes are permitted.

SECTION 9: TARGETS

All Targets used are to be constructed of steel cut to the appropriate size allocated for each distance to be shot, with the exception of paper/card targets which shall remain standard. All targets are to be setup at the range stop butts in a safe and approved manner. All targets to be used should be of a safe design and capable of handling lead bullets for a long time.

Long Range Black Powder Cartridge Rifle match may be shot at distances varying from 100 yards out to 1000 yards, and in the case of the bonus target in excess of 1000 yards where this is allowable (refer to range approval licence). To maintain the authenticity of a mid to late 19th Century Buffalo hunt the distance to be shot will be decided upon on the day of the match in some cases.

SECTION 10: RANGE STANDARDS

The events covered in these match rules may only be conducted at approved rifle ranges in accordance with SSAA Range Safety Procedures and the conditions of the Range Approval Licence.

No target set up, change or maintenance shall take place except where the “Range Closed” situation exists, and all firearms have been cleared and removed from the firing line.

Wherever communication between firing line and target area is required the method used is to be determined by the Match Director or Chief Range Officer.

SECTION 11: COURSE OF FIRE

Practice and squadding will be followed by a shooters safety meeting. The availability and number of sighters is at the discretion of the Match Director or Chief Range Officer, and, allowance may be made for sighters to be incorporated into the match. Wherever possible time will be provided for practice prior to the Match.

Attention is drawn to Section 8 of these Rules which refers to details of equipment, ammunition and shooting conditions.

- Shooting may be done from any position with the exception of the nearest target (300 yards or less) which will be shot standing without support (i.e. offhand).
- Cross sticks may be used at distances over 200 yards.

11.1 MATCH 1 (Steel Plate)

- Ammunition requirements: 21 rounds.
- The bonus target will be shot at a distance greater than 1000 yards only where possible (refer to range approval)

Position	Shots	Distance
Offhand	5	200 yards
Any	5	300 yards
Any	5	600 yards
Any	5	1000 yards
Any	1	1000 + yards

11.2 MATCH 2 (Steel Plate)

- Ammunition requirements: 21 rounds.
- The Buffalo target (1000 yards) shall have a centre scoring gong measuring 3' x 3'

Position	Shots	Distance
Any	7	800 yards
Any	7	900 yards
Any	7	1000 yards

11.3 MATCH 3 (Steel Plate)

- Ammunition requirements: 60 rounds – 5 sighters and 10 rounds per target
- Four steel targets will be shot at distances to be confirmed on the day by the Match Director or Chief Range Officer.

Position	Shots	Distance
Appropriate to distance	10 per target	TBA X 4

11.4 MATCH 4 (Paper Target)

- Ammunition requirements: 60 rounds – 5 sighters and 10 rounds per target
- Competitors will take to the firing line in the order arranged by the scorer.
- Four paper/card targets will be shot at distances to be confirmed on the day by the Match Director or Chief Range Officer. One target will be shot at 1000 yards.

Position	Shots	Distance
Appropriate to distance	10 per target	TBA X 3
Any	10	1000 yards X 1

SECTION 12: SCORING

12.1 A hit is a direct hit on the target. Ricochets and hits on the target frame do not count as scoring hits and are awarded as a miss. A miss is a miss and counts as zero.

12.2 Points awarded per hit may vary from event to event at the discretion of the Match Director. In principle a hit scores 3 points, however, additional points may be awarded at the discretion of the Match Director if shooting at targets with clear marked areas AND if the part of the target that is hit is clearly identifiable.

Competitors shall be advised of the scoring values per hit prior to the commencement of a match.

If the target has three zones then the points awarded would be 10/5/3. If only two zones then 5/3 points are to be awarded.

12.3 It is the scorer's responsibility to confirm that the data required on the score sheet is entered and correct. An individual value must be entered for each shot in the separate spaces provided on the score sheet.

12.4 Spotters – all competitors shall be given the opportunity to act as a spotter at the request of the Chief Range Officer. Spotters shall observe targets for hit or miss and report their observations to the Chief Range Officer and scorer after each competitor in the detail fires a shot. Where ever possible three spotters shall be used with the majority decision abided by. Spotting scopes and/or binoculars are to be used.

12.5 When using butts/target pit range all scoring is to be done by the nominated scorer in the target area.

12.6 At the Chief Range Officer's discretion the use of a TV camera focused on the target may be used for spotting purposes. The use of TV equipment will negate the requirement for any appointed spotters.