



INTERIM

AIR RIFLE FIELD TARGET

GUIDE

Interim Edition 2012

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

SSAA AIR RIFLE FIELD TARGET GUIDE

INTERIM EDITION

2012

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To promote all Air Rifle Field Target shooting, using air rifles capable of sufficient accuracy that can hit the distant targets.

SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES

2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

A competitor who competes in a National Championship must be a financial member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia or an Association affiliated with the SSAA Inc or under special invitation from the SSAA Inc National Board.

A current SSAA membership card or official documentation from the SSAA National Membership Office or a SSAA State or Territory Association showing current membership details shall be accepted as proof of their financial membership, providing they are not under suspension from membership.

Members of Affiliated Associations must provide adequate documentation of their current membership of the Affiliate Association.

Any person who is unfinancial or is unable to provide proof of their financial status may pay their full membership fee for the applicable SSAA State or Territory Association, to the host Branch / Club, providing they are not under a suspension from membership.

2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS

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

A Junior competitor in a National Championship shall pay no more than one half of the standard adult entry fee.

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

Junior competitors are divided into two classes

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

2.3 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE

In the event of a malfunction which results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breach end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm.

2.4 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

2.4.1 Competitors to be familiar with the Rules

Competitors should be familiar with the Rules pertaining to National Championships.

2.4.2 Sportsmanship

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

2.4.3 Behaviour

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

Any disqualification made under this Rule may be appealable under the procedure set down in Section 2.7 of these Rules.

2.4.4 Range Safety Rules

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

2.4.5 Safety Equipment

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

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

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

2.5 RULE INFRINGEMENTS

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

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

2.6 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY

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

2.7 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

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

- 2.7.1** At all registered tournaments there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to hear and decide protests and appeals.

2.7.2 The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people, including the National Discipline Chairman, any one of whom may be a competitor. The National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee will chair the Appeals Committee. But in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (notwithstanding any Rule or Rules of law to the contrary).

In competitions where more than one State is represented a delegate from any of the States represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee.

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

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

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

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

2.7.7 Any accused person shall:

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

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

- 2.7.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
 - 2.7.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.
 - 2.7.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
 - 2.7.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.
- 2.7.8 Immediately the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision or post the decision on a notice board. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

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

2.8 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

State and Territory Associations or Bodies may devise their own type of shooting competitions and formulate their own Rules for the conduct of supplementary competitions, but in National Championships they will be obliged to abide by the Rules laid down from time to time by the SSAA Inc for the conduct of National Championships.

The conduct of supplementary events shall not in any way infringe on the conduct and completion of the core National events.

SECTION 3: RIFLE SPECIFICATIONS

- 3.1 **Certification of Rifles:** Rifles must be checked and certified for compliance before being fired in a match. The match organisers reserve the right to re-check any rifle, to ensure compliance to these rules, at any time during the course of the match.

For SSAA International Team selection competitors should ensure all their equipment complies with the international competition rules..

- 3.2 **Classes of Air rifles:** Classes of air rifles for the purposes of this Rule Book are defined as follows. Competition officials must advertise which classes of air rifles are to be used for each Match at a Championship event in advance of each Match commencing.

SPRINGER: An air rifle in which power is generated by a large spring / gas ram and piston.

PCP: Pre-charged Pneumatic Air Rifle is an air rifle in which power is generated by means of an on board chamber of compressed air or gas. The chamber of compressed air / gas may be pressurised by any means which may include, refilling from a high pressure air source such as a bulk supply tank (e.g. SCUBA tank or CO2 bottle), high pressure compressor, manual hand pump or an on rifle / integrated pump. Rifles which employ a permanently attached remote feed system to separate bulk supply are expressly forbidden.

3.2.1 OPEN AIR RIFLE: Any Air Rifle

3.2.2 OPEN PCP AIR RIFLE: Any PCP Air Rifle

3.2.3 OPEN SPRINGER: Any Springer Air Rifle

3.2.4 INTERNATIONAL PCP: Any PCP Air rifle with muzzle energy not exceeding 12ft/lbs. (16.27 joules)

3.2.5 INTERNATIONAL SPRINGER: Any Springer Air Rifle with muzzle energy not exceeding 12ft/lbs. (16.27 joules)

3.3 Muzzle Energy: For Open Springer and Open PCP class matches; the competition organisers reserve the right to disallow the use of any rifle which is considered to be causing excessive damage to targets.

All International Springer and International PCP rifles must be chronographed prior to the start of the first days' competition. The output of those rifles will be recorded by the match director and used as a master reference. Tests or spot checking on subsequent days may be done at any point along the course as determined by the match director. Any failure at these subsequent tests will lead to disqualification. No power adjustments may be made to an International class rifle during a match.

The formula used for calculating ft/lbs muzzle energy is:

Velocity (fps) x velocity (fps) x pellet weight (grains) divided by 450240

or to calculate muzzle energy in Joules:

Energy = $\frac{1}{2}$ x ((pellet weight in grams divided by 1000) x velocity (mps) x velocity (mps))

fps = Feet per second

mps = Metres per second

- 3.4 Sights:** Any form of sighting device may be used with the exception of Laser sights. No built-in or separate laser range finding device may be used.
- 3.5 Trigger:** Any safe functional trigger of any release weight.
- 3.5.1 Release Trigger:** Triggers which function on release are expressly forbidden.
- 3.6 Stocks:** Any stock of any configuration with no limit as to design is permitted and may be adjusted to accommodate various shooting styles and positions. Additional attachments are not permitted to be added or removed during the course of the competition. Exceptions to this rule may only be granted by the Match Director on occasions where several competitors are sharing the same rifle, and the addition or removal of stock spacers etc. is required in order to adjust the rifle dimensions to each competitor's individual requirement.
- 3.6.1 Butt Hooks:** The use of butt hooks is permitted
- 3.6.2 Hamster:** The use of a Hamster is permitted but must remain securely attached to the rifle during the course of the match. The surface of the hamster must be flat and not shaped to provide lateral support to the rifle.
- 3.7 Slings:** A single rifle sling, in either single or two point attachment, may be used to carry, and to help steady the rifle whilst aiming
- 3.8 Trigger Guard:** For safety purposes, all firearms used must be fitted with either a part or full trigger guard.
- 3.9 Other Rifle accessories allowed to be used during competition include:**
Spirit Level
Sunshade on rifle scope
Scope enhancer (rubber eyepiece)
Thermometer
Wind indicator (non-electronic)
Inclinometer

No additional equipment, electronic or other may be used to assist the competitor in evaluating the wind or other weather conditions.

SECTION 4: AMMUNITION

- 4.1 Supply:** Competitors will supply their own ammunition.
- 4.2 Type:** Any design of pellet that is completely made of lead, lead alloy, lead zinc, or zinc alloy may be used. Darts, steel BBs, or other pellets containing hard materials such as steel are not to be used. Any pellets which cause excessive damage to targets may be disallowed for use, by the competition organisers.

SECTION 5: CLOTHING

- 5.1 Any type of clothing, glove or footwear is allowed, provided it is not a hazard to the competitor or others. Clothing may be padded to reduce the pressure of the rifle stock resting on the arm or knee. The padding may be felt, layers of cloth etc. The surface of the pad on which the stock rests must be flat and not shaped to provide lateral support to the stock or hamster. Separate pads may be worn over non padded clothing provided that they conform to the above specifications.

SECTION 6: EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 **Spotting Scopes:** Spotting scopes are not permitted on the firing line during competition. They may be used during sight in periods on the “zero range”.
- 6.2 **Shooting Mat or Ground Cloth:** Shooting mats and/or ground cloths are permitted for use at the firing line.
- 6.3 **Seat:** The Maximum height for any form of seating is 150mm (6”) when flattened between 2 boards. The seat may only be used as an aid to the sitting or kneeling positions within these rules. The seat may not be used as an aiming aid, e.g. a fore end rest.

Variations on this rule may be applied at the discretion of the Match Director in recognition of a competitor’s disability, providing that no unfair advantage is gained.

- 6.4 **Reservoir Tanks:** The storage of reservoir tanks on the firing line is prohibited. Refer to Rule 8.2.

SECTION 7: TARGETS

- 7.1 **Main Event:** Fall when hit targets shall be used. Targets may typically be made of wood and/or steel and may be of any configuration; however those which are representative of human form or protected species are not to be used. The hit zone shall be circular and of a contrasting colour to the faceplate. Course builders should allow for competitors affected by colour blindness – hit zones recommended to be yellow, white, or fluoro orange. The use of simulated hit zones on any part of the target is prohibited. Standard hit zones shall be 40mm in diameter. Targets must be resettable from the firing line.
- 7.2 **Reduced Hit Zone:** The course may contain targets with reduced diameter hit zones, provided that the total number of such targets does not exceed 25% of the total number of targets in the course with the following specifications:
- a) The hit zones may be either 15mm or 25mm

b) Maximum ranges for reduced hit zone targets are as follows:

Reduced size	15mm	25mm
Non-enforced position targets	20 metres	35metres
Enforced position targets	Not allowed	20 metres

7.3 Target Numbering: All targets shall be clearly and consecutively numbered except on lanes which are nominated by the Host Branch / Club as “Shooters’ Choice” (Refer rule 9.5).

SECTION 8: RANGE STANDARDS

As the Field Target competition is a “simulated field” type event then ideally the Field Target range lends itself well to a “bush” type environment (the traditional range safety zone is often a good place in which to construct a course, provided that the correct approvals are in place and the range proper is closed to shooting whilst the Field Target layout is in use).

This is not to say that it cannot be shot on a more traditional firing range, this means however that considerably more imagination needs to be given to the construction of a challenging layout for the competitor. The challenge of Field Target lies in both the competitors ability to judge / range distance and to shoot over that distance with a moderately low powered firearm.

For championship matches the range is preferably laid out in a bush environment and is made up of not less than 10 to a maximum of 25 mown or cleared lanes, or multiples thereof, with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 targets per lane (refer rule 9.1). Most host clubs will elect to cut 10 to 12 lanes and rotate their targets throughout the course, once each match is completed. Due to the nature of the event and the availability of suitable land this then means that each course will be technically more or less difficult than the next. Such is the nature of Field Target.

8.1 Safety: The range must meet all normal and local safety requirements and local range rules will be observed.

8.2 Firing Line: The firing line is for safety and measurement purposes. No competitor will place their feet or any other part of their body forward of the firing line. The firing line may consist of:

8.2.1 2 pegs driven into the ground with a line strung between them.

8.2.2 A line visibly marked on the ground.

8.2.3 A box visibly marked on the ground for the competitor to shoot from within.

- 8.3 Firing Points:** Each firing point, such as shooting boxes, should be clearly defined by lines or other easily recognizable means.
- 8.4 Shelter:** The firing point may be protected with a roof but the competitors must be exposed to prevailing winds. Umbrellas or other types of temporary individual shelters are not to be used.
- 8.5 Distances:** Target distances are not to be sign posted or revealed in any way to the competitors. The minimum and maximum distances of any target from the firing line must be 8 metres and 50 metres respectively.
- 8.6 Illumination and Visibility:** Artificial illumination of ranges is allowed. All targets must be clearly visible from all shooting positions within each lane.
- 8.7 Target and Firing Point Identification:** Each firing point and shooting lane shall be readily identified by numbers or some other means so as to avoid competitor confusion. Targets shall be clearly numbered so that targets are engaged in the correct order.
- 8.8 Target Placement:** Targets may be placed at a higher or lower elevation to the firing line, but must be fully visible from the shooting position and face the competitor.
- 8.9 Zeroing Range:** A 'Zeroing Range' will be provided for all competitors' use prior to engaging competition on the match target lanes. It is recommended that the 'Zeroing Range' be laid out with paper sighter targets at the following intervals: 8m, 10m, 15m, 20m, 25m, 30m, 35m, 40m, 45m, 50m. Once a match has started the zero range will be closed to all competitors. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Match Director as described in Rule 11.6.b.
- 8.10 Wind Flags:** Wind Flags may be provided on the "Zero Range" but must not be placed on the competition lanes.

SECTION 9: COURSE OF FIRE, SCORING, TIED SCORES

- 9.1 Target Count:** A match shall consist of not less than 30 targets.
- 9.2 Scoring:** A full course of fire must be completed for a score to be deemed valid excepting any circumstance under Rule 11.6 (Leaving the firing line). Scoring shall be on the basis of one point for each hit and a zero for a miss. A hit shall be awarded when a target falls. Any movement of the plate which does not result in the target or the hit zone falling shall be scored as a miss. Hits shall be marked with an X and misses marked with a 0.

9.2.1 Disputed Scores: Any disputed score must be made prior to leaving the target. Under no circumstances should the competitor touch the reset cord until the dispute has been resolved. Targets should be checked by the Match Director or Deputy whose decision shall be final. Any target found to be defective shall be repaired / replaced and re-shot.

9.2.2 Tied Scores: In the event of tied scores shoot-offs will be conducted on lanes of 3 targets, until the stalemate is broken, with the grades using the following procedure:

Master & AAA Grade - All targets shot offhand.

AA Grade - 2 out of 3 targets compulsory offhand.

A Grade - 1 out of 3 targets compulsory offhand.

B grade - No compulsory offhand – competitors choice.

9.2.3 All Shots Count: All shots fired by a competitor during the course of competition will be counted in their score even if the rifle may be accidentally discharged. A shot is defined as the discharge of air from the firearm, regardless of a pellet being chambered or not.

9.2.4 Insufficient Shots: If a competitor fires less than the required number of shots through their own fault, they shall be scored a miss for each unfired shot.

9.2.5 Loading and Unloading: Firearms may only be loaded once the competitor has taken their position at the shooting lane and must be unloaded and cleared before moving to the next shooting lane.

9.3 Targets Shot out of Sequence: All targets are to be shot in numerical order. Targets shot at out of sequence are scored as misses. For example the first shot hitting the second target is a miss. In this case it is a double miss as only the third target may be fired upon. The competitor cannot fire their third shot at the remaining target / targets. This rule does not apply to shooting lanes designated "Shooters Choice" (refer rule 9.5) with regards to target shooting order only.

9.4 Enforced Position Targets:

9.4.1 The number of targets to be shot from an enforced kneeling position (refer rule 11.4.1) in any one course must not exceed 10% of the total number of targets in that course.

9.4.2 The number of targets to be shot from an enforced off-hand position (refer rule 11.4.2) in any one course must not exceed 10% of the total number of targets in that course.

9.5 Shooter's Choice: During the conduct of a match the host club may nominate to shoot selected lanes as "Shooter's Choice" whereby the competitors is allowed to nominate, prior to firing, the order in which targets may be engaged within such lanes.

SECTION 10: TIME LIMITS

10.1 Timing: A time of 2 minutes is allowed for the completion of each lane. Timing is continuous and begins when the eye is put to the sight, the first sight adjustment is made or when the pellet or loaded magazine is inserted into the rifle, whichever comes first.

If the total time exceeds 2 minutes the competitor will forfeit any 'hit' obtained after the expiry of the allotted time.

SECTION 11: COMPETITION REGULATIONS AND OPERATION

Prior to a match commencing the competition organisers will distribute scoresheets to the competitors and break the field up into groups of even numbers of competitors. The number of competitors per group is dependant on the number of lanes available and the total number of competitors. However the minimum permissible number of competitors per group is 3. One shooting whilst the other two time and score for the competitor, as well as ensuring that the rules are being followed.

The competitors will be given a starting point in the course, by the match organisers, and once shooting commences, members of each group of competitors will be required to take turns at shooting, scoring, timing etc at each lane. When everyone in a group has completed shooting a lane of targets they will then move on to and commence shooting the next lane. This process will be repeated until such times as all competitors in all groups have completed the allotted number of lanes for that match.

11.1 Positions: Any shooting position is allowed but the basic /unenforced shooting position is sitting or prone, some targets may be designated as enforced kneeling or enforced off- hand (refer rule 9.4). A clear sign at the firing line shall indicate which targets are to be shot from the kneeling or offhand positions. In the event of a competitor not being able to conform to the above positions, the following will apply:

- a) The competitor shall make it known to the Match Director before the commencement of his or her match that they are unable, for whatever medical reason, to comply with the particular shooting position.
- b) The competitor shall use the next most difficult position in order of sitting / prone, kneeling, off-hand with sitting / prone being the least difficult and offhand being the most difficult.
- c) The Match Director shall make all other Range Officers aware of any special arrangements.

11.1.1 Prone position: When shooting from the prone position the gun and the competitors' forearm, from elbow to fingertips, must be clear of any artificial or natural support. However a sling as described in rule 3.7 may be in contact with the competitors forearm in order to help steady their arm.

11.1.2 Supports: Only the equipment listed in these rules and the competitors' body is allowed to be used as an aid to steadying the aim of the rifle.

11.2 Firing Line: Refer rule 8.2

11.3 Firing: Only one shot is allowed at any one target. The number of shots taken at any one lane shall not exceed the total number of targets in that lane with the following exceptions:

- a) Rule 9.2.1
- b) In a shoot off situation.

11.4 Enforced Shooting Positions:

11.4.1 Enforced Kneeling: There shall be only 3 points of contact with the ground (2 feet and 1 knee). The rear foot shall be upright and straight in line with the knee. A legal seat may be used to support the rear foot and/or ankle, or to keep the knee clean provided that the foot has contact with the ground. The leading hand will support the gun and forward of the wrist shall itself be unsupported.

11.4.2 Enforced Off-hand: Any shot taken in an off-hand position without the aid of any support other than the ones previously mentioned in these rules.

11.4.3 Persons with disabilities: A competitor who, because of a physical disability, cannot fire from the prescribed shooting position/s outlined in these rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, is entitled to petition the National Discipline Chairman for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both. This petition will be in the form of a written request from the competitor to the National Discipline Chairman outlining, in detail, the reasons why the special position/s must be assumed or the special equipment must be used. The petition shall be accompanied by pictures of the competitor in the position they desire approved, and if special equipment is required, the picture will show how this equipment is used. The petition and all pictures must be furnished in exact duplicate. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical handicap is not completely evident in the pictures submitted.

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

11.4.3.2 Protests: In the event of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a competitor, the Appeals Committee will compare the questioned position or equipment with the certificate and photographs presented by the competitor. If the competitor's position or equipment does not, in the opinion of the officials, conform to that authorised by the discipline Chairman (or if the competitor has no authorised certificate or pictures), the protest shall be allowed and the competitor will be required to change immediately to the position or equipment which has been approved or to an otherwise legal position or equipment.

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

11.5 Competitor Conduct:

11.5.1 Coaching: Coaching or persistent barracking of a competitor in competition is not allowed.

11.5.2 Commence Fire: No competitor will begin firing until the range is declared "Open for Shooting" by the Range Officer.

11.5.3 Cease Fire: In the event of a cease fire command being given all rifles will be unloaded and kept pointing down range until further instructions are given. During a cease fire targets will not be sighted or ranged.

11.5.4 Changing Rifles: Unless it has become disabled (refer rule 11.7) and has been so designated by the Range Officer or Match Director, no competitor will change their rifle during the firing of any match. Different rifles may be used during a tournament but in each tournament (which may consist of multiple matches), the same rifle must be used for all matches in that championship. A claim that a 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.

11.5.5 Practice on the competition match lanes is not permitted.

11.6 Leaving the Firing Line: A competitor may leave the firing line under the following conditions:

- a) Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case his score to that point will be presented as a valid result.
- b) To effect a repair to equipment which has been rendered unsafe or incapable of firing a shot by whatever means. This does not include zero shift of optical equipment or poorly zeroed systems.

The competitor may replace the offending part or equipment with the permission of the Match Director, but no visit to the zeroing range is permitted by the competitor, or any person on his behalf using the repaired or exchanged equipment, unless permission is given by the Match Director, before recommencing the match.

c) Any other occurrence which is deemed valid by the Match Director.

Note: In all the above cases the competitor's scorecard must be handed to the Match Director and their permission obtained to leave the firing line, with a stipulated time for return. The card will be marked with the departure time. Any card not claimed within the designated time will be submitted for scoring.

11.7 Disabled Rifle: A disabled rifle is one which:

11.7.1 Cannot be safely aimed or fired.

11.7.2 Has suffered damage so that it cannot be fired or will not function properly and cannot be repaired in time to complete the competition.

11.7.3 Has lost the sight or has suffered damage to the sights. Sight improperly adjusted does not constitute a disabled rifle.

11.8 Malfunction: Failure of the rifle to function properly due to mechanical defects. Functional failures due to improper manual operation are not to be considered as malfunctions.

11.9 Matches not complete: When a Match or stage is not completed by all competitors, due to circumstances beyond the Match organizers control, in accordance with the Tournament schedule, the Match or stage may be rescheduled or cancelled. Any 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 or for National Record purposes, and a match or stage is not completed unless all competitors have fired.

SECTION 12: GRADING

12.1 Graded Competitors: Are competitors who are officially graded in Air Rifle Field Target Competition.

12.2 Proof of Grading: It is the competitor's responsibility to have their current grading card in their possession when competing in competition using a grading system. Ungraded competitors must obtain their grading card from the tournament officials.

- 12.3 Establishing Grades:** A competitor will receive their first grading on the basis of the first match fired, or for a championship they will be graded on the highest score fired in the championship.
- 12.4 Scores Used for Grading:** Scores used for Field Target Grading are those scores fired in SSAA Field Target matches.
- 12.5 Air Rifle Field Target Grading Cards:** Field Target Grading cards are available from the Field Target Discipline Chairman or the SSAA National Office.
- 12.6 Lack of Grading Evidence:** It is the competitor's responsibility to have their Field Target grading card, and to present it when required. Any competitor who cannot present such evidence will shoot ungraded. A competitor's grading will not change during a championship. A competitor will enter a championship under their correct grading and fire the entire championship in that grade. Should it be discovered during a championship that a competitor has entered in a grade lower than their correct grade, the championship records will be corrected to show the correct grade for the entire championship.
- 12.7 Competing in a Higher Grade:** Any individual or team may elect, before firing, to compete in a higher grade than the one in which they are graded, provided there is at least 3 other competitors of that higher grade already nominated. Such individual or team must fire in such higher grade throughout the championship and not revert to earned grading for any event in that championship.
- 12.8 Re-grading:** A competitor will be upgraded from B grade to A Grade when they fire 2 scores of a higher grade. All other grading upgrades require a competitor to fire 3 scores of a higher grade. If the two or three higher scores are in different grades, re-grading shall be to the lower of the two; the higher scores will also be used toward subsequent re-grading.
- 12.9 Downgrading:** For a competitor to go down a grade they must do so by applying to the Discipline Chairman in writing with due reason and supported by documentary evidence (i.e. score sheets, medical statements, etc.) that will help the Chairman to reach a decision.
- 12.10 Grade Breaks:** As field target layouts vary, as do the number of shots fired, grading must be undertaken as a percentage of targets hit. The following percentage breaks will be applied in order to obtain grading.

Master	-	85-100%
AAA	-	70-84%
AA	-	55-69%
A	-	40-54%
B	-	0-39%

SECTION 13: CHAMPIONSHIP (TOURNAMENT) OFFICIALS

13.1 Championship Personnel: Prior to each match, the organisers will appoint and clearly identify a Match Director and if required a Deputy as well as a number of Range Officers where required.

13.1.1 Match Director: The Match Director is directly responsible for the efficient conduct of the entire tournament. He may change the match and firing conditions as shown on the program provided a bulletin is posted for the information of all competitors, and that such changes are not contrary to current SSAA rules. The Match Director is directly responsible for the efficient operation of the range 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.

In the application of these rules, the Match Director will confer with the National Chairman, and if needed with the Appeals Committee on any doubtful point and will be guided by the Appeals Committee's decision.

13.1.2 Range Officer: Is to conduct the tournament in a safe and proper manner and carry out the procedures as outlined in these rules. The Range Officer will also check to ensure that competitors on the firing line conform to the rules as outlined in this rule book.

SECTION 14: DEFINITION OF TERMS

MATCH: A match will consist of at least one full course of fire as described in rule 9.1.

CHAMPIONSHIP: A championship will be made up of multiple matches.

TOURNAMENT: A tournament will be made up of multiple championships.

AIR RIFLE: Any air rifle, of any calibre and weight, which complies with state legislation in force at the time of the event, which is in safe working order.

PCP: Pre-charged Pneumatic Air Rifle

SPRINGER: An air rifle in which power is generated by a large spring/gas ram and piston.

HAMSTER: A support that is affixed to the underside of the rifle fore stock and rests on the competitor's hand or knee, depending on the shooting position.

LANE: A defined pathway in which targets are placed.

COURSE: Multiple lanes usually between 10 and 25.

LAYOUT: Multiple courses.