

3. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION

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

3.1 The Rifle - The rifle authorized for use in smallbore rifle matches is the .22 caliber rimfire chambered for cartridges commercially catalogued as the “.22 Short,” “.22 Long,” or “.22 Long Rifle” cartridges. There are no restrictions on the barrel length or overall weight of the rifle and accessories. No portion of the rifle or any attachment to the rifle shall extend more than 3 inches beyond the rear of the shooter’s shoulder. The trigger pull must be capable of lifting 3 pounds. The same rifle must be used throughout all stages of any one match (except aggregate) except in the case of a malfunction or disabled rifle, when the competitor may change rifles with permission of the Chief Range Officer.

3.2 Any Rifle - A rifle authorized for use in smallbore rifle matches using cartridges commercially catalogued as the “.22 Short,” “.22 Long” or “.22 Long Rifle” cartridges. There are no restrictions on the barrel length or overall weight of the rifle and accessories. No portion of the rifle or any attachment to the rifle shall extend more than 3 inches beyond the rear of the shooter’s shoulder. A butt plate conforming with NRA Rule 3.15 may be used. “Around the body, or “around the shoulder hooks are not permitted. The same rifle must be used throughout all stages of any one match (except aggregate) except in the case of a malfunction or disabled rifle when the competitor may change rifles with permission of the Chief Range Officer. In NRA 3 Position Course shooting this Rule will govern the conduct of the match and may not be waived by the Match Sponsor.

3.3 Light Rifle - Any .22 caliber rimfire .22 short, .22 long, or .22 long rifle with not less than a 2 pound trigger pull and which weighs not more than 8 ½ pounds when equipped with sights.

3.4 Junior Rifle- A rifle authorized for use in Junior competition using cartridges commercially catalogued as a rimfire “.22 Short,” “.22 Long,” or “.22 Long Rifle” cartridge. There shall be no restrictions on the barrel length or overall weight of the rifle. The rifle may not be equipped with thumb hole stock, Schuetzen Type Butt Plate (Rule 3.15), or palm rest (Rule 3.14).Adult use of this rule in open competition is permitted.

3.5 Trigger Guard - A rifle must be equipped with an effective trigger guard. Lack of a trigger guard constitutes an unsafe rifle.

3.7 Sights

(a) Metallic

(1) **Non-corrective:** Any sighting system, constructed of metal or equivalent, which provides a method of aiming or aligning 2 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.

(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.

(c) Any - Any sight without restriction as to material or construction.

(d) Prohibited - Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

3.8 Spotting Scopes - The use of a telescope to spot shots 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 shooter’s forward shoulder on 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 and construction as to interfere with shooters on adjacent firing points or to constitute a wind break (Rule 9.9).

3.9.1 Personal Wind Indicators - Competitors may use personal wind indicating devices, placement of which

is not to exceed 24 inches in front of the firing line, as long as they do not interfere with other competitors or range operation. (See Rule 6.9 and 9.9)

3.10 Ground Cloth - Ground cloth may be used providing it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial rest or support.

3.11 Gloves- Gloves may be worn which do not form an artificial support.

3.11.1 Shooting Coats - Are permitted in all events. They may be constructed of cloth, canvas, nylon, leather or any combination of these materials. They may be lined or unlined. The lining may be smooth or quilted. There may be elbow pads, a shoulder pad and a sling pad made of non-slip material.

3.11.2 Shooting Trousers - Are permitted in all events. They may be constructed of cloth, canvas, nylon, leather or any combination of these materials. They may be lined or unlined. The lining may be smooth or quilted. There may be knee and seat reinforcements that may be made of a non-slip material.

3.12 Padding - Shoulder pads, sling pads and elbow pads may be worn while shooting, provided they are constructed so as not to provide artificial support. A button, hook or strap may be placed on the sleeve of the shooting coat to support the sling loop that is placed on the upper arm.

3.13 Slings - Unless otherwise specified in the conditions of the match, the rifle sling may be used in connection with the rifle and one arm only as an auxiliary to steady the rifle except in the standing position. Sling cuffs and sling pads are permitted. (See Rules 5.12, 5.13) No part of the sling under tension may touch the rifle stock except at the sling swivel and handstop. Loose, excess sling material not involved in supporting the rifle may make incidental contact with the stock if not arranged to cause artificial support.

3.14 Palm Rest - A palm rest is an attachment or extension below the forearm which aids the normal hand grip and support of the piece by the forward hand and arm. The use of palm rest in the NRA standing position is allowed under Rules 3.1 and 3.2 and may not be prohibited by the Match Sponsor.

3.14.1 Kneeling Roll - A cylindrical cushion for shooting in the kneeling position; maximum dimensions will be 9.84 inches long (25 cm) and 7.08 inches in diameter (18 cm), and made of soft and flexible material.

3.15 Butt plates and hook - A butt hook projecting more than 153 mm (6.02 inches) past the rear of a line, which is perpendicular to a line drawn through the axis of the bore of the rifle, and which is tangent to the deepest part of the butt plate depression that normally rests against the shoulder. It must have a total outside length around any curve or bend of not more than 178 mm (7.01 inches).

See hook illustration

3.16 Release Triggers - Triggers which function on release are prohibited.

3.17 Ammunition - Rimfire cartridges commercially catalogued as the “.22 Short, “.22 Long, or “.22 Long Rifle which have an over-all length not more than 1.1 inches and loaded with a lead or alloy bullet of not larger than .23 inch diameter. Hollow point, tracer, incendiary or explosive bullets are specifically excluded from ammunition authorized for match use.

3.18 General - All devices or equipment which may facilitate shooting and which are not mentioned in these Rules, and which are contrary to the spirit of these Rules and Regulations, are forbidden. The Match Director, Official Referee, Jury Chairman or Supervisor 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.

3.19 Eye Protection- All competitors and other personnel in the immediate vicinity of the range complex are urged to wear eye protection devices.

3.20 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 forward of the ready line.

Competitors should be aware that match sponsors (and/or ranges) may require that all competitors wear eye and ear protection while attending a match on their range.

3.21 Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) - A smallbore ECI is required in all smallbore rifle competitions to indicate that the chamber is empty. The ECI, NRA stock #CT17515, is recommended. Any substitute indicator may be used as long as it has a probe into the empty chamber, has a flag attached and is a bright color.

3.22 Audible Timing Devices - Audible timing devices are allowed.

3.23 Electronic Devices-Radios, tape recorders, or any type of sound producing or communications systems are prohibited forward of the ready line except hearing aids and those devices necessary for range control.