

FIELD and RIMFIRE CLASS TARGET SHOOTING [FCTS & RCTS]

17.1 Rifles – Field Class Target Shooting (FCTS)

17.1.1 Any rifle commercially available in Australia from registered or licensed firearm dealers provided that the owner is legally entitled to possess such rifles under State or Territory Law may be used provided they satisfy the following criteria:-

17.1.1.1 Calibre:[The calibre must not exceed 8mm.

17.1.1.2 Weight:- The weight with all attachments, excluding sling if used, must not exceed 5.5kg unloaded.

17.1.1.3 Sights:-

- a) Any sighting system may be used provided that it is mounted in a fixed position on the rifle and all its components [including batteries where applicable] must be on the rifle when it is weighed.
- b) The same sighting system must be used for all courses of fire.
- c) Adjustment of the sights is allowed for elevation, windage, reticule type, element size, optical power, etc., provided that such adjustment is normal function of the system and can be accomplished without removing the sighting system from the rifle.

17.1.1.4 Triggers:-

Any trigger system may be used provided that it is safe. A trigger shall be deemed safe if:-

- a) Its activating mechanism is enclosed in a suitable trigger guard:-
- b) Vigorous cycling of the action does not cause the trigger to release.

17.1.1.5 Magazines:

Magazines may be used provided that:-

- a) The rifle would normally be supplied with one, and:-
- b) The magazine does not protrude more than 160mm beyond the central axis of the bore. The magazine protective devices or attachments for any other purpose will be considered as constituting part of the magazine for the purpose of this rule.

17.1.1.6 Stocks:-

It is expected that the rifle would be used with the stock supplied, however, a custom built stock and/or butt or a design similar to that normally supplied is permitted. The stock whether as supplied or custom built must not be capable of adjustment in dimensions or weight. Hand-stops [as distinct from sling attachment points] and palm rests, etc., or any attachment specifically designed to assist in steadying the rifle and improving the hold are not permitted. A stock pattern recoil pad may be fastened to the butt in the normal way provided that the concavity does not exceed 20mm and no hook effect is obtained.

17.1.1.7 Barrels:-

It is expected that the rifle would be used with the barrel as supplied, however a barrel may be replaced as required, provided that the

replacement barrel is not less than 450mm nor greater than 700mm in length.

17.1.1.8 Bipods:- Bipods if fitted to the rifle may not be used as a support in any firing position.

17.1.1.9 Slings:

A sling may be used if the rifle is not fitted with a bipod provided that:-

- a) The total length of the sling [measured from end to end] does not exceed 1500mm.
- b) The width does not exceed 50mm.
- c) The thickness does not exceed 6mm.
- d) It is constructed of pliable non-stretch material such as leather, webbing, synthetic stragglings material.
- e) It is attached to the rifle at no more than two points.
- f) It does not make contact with the rifle anywhere other than the points of attachment when the competitor is in the firing position.
- g) If the competitor elects to use a sling for all or some of the matches he must use the same sling which must remain attached to the rifle for all matches [even those for which it is not being used] and;-
- h) The sling may be adjusted for length at any time and for point of attachment between practices.

17.1.2 Rimfire Class Target Shooting [RCTS]

17.1.2.1 Any rifle commercially available in Australia from registered or licensed firearm dealers, provided the owner is legally entitled to possess such rifles under State or Territory law, may be used for RCTS provided they satisfy the following criteria:-

17.1.2.2 Calibre:- It is chambered to fire the 0.22 long rifle rim fire [LR RF] or the 0.22 Winchester magnum rim fire [WM RF] cartridge.

17.1.2.3 Weight:- The weight with all attachments excluding sling must not exceed 4.5kg unloaded.

17.1.2.4 General:- The provision for rifle and attachments, as outlined for Field Class Target Shooting is to apply.

17.1.2.5 Disabled Competitors, Three Positional Field Class:- Special provisions for enabling disabled competitors to adopt a different firing position from that which the match requires may be employed at the discretion of the Range Officer and with prior discussion with the organising committee.

17.2 Dress and Equipment

17.2.1 Clothing:- All clothing must be made of soft flexible and pliable material which does not materially change its physical characteristics under commonly encountered shooting conditions. These same general specifications apply to any lining, seams, and normal tailoring reinforcements.

17.2.1.1 Specially constructed shooting coats, jackets, trousers etc., [as used by small bore and full bore target competitors] and jackets so constructed as to include in their manufacture padded areas to elbows and rifle butt contact to shoulder areas, are not permitted.

- 17.2.1.2 The clothing worn should be of a type normally described as street clothing or field clothing. However, the clothing may be of a suitable robust construction for the purpose intended.
- 17.2.1.3 Any straps, buttons, cuffs, hooks, laces, pockets, bindings or any other devices [whether a normal part of the construction of the garment or not] that may be construed as providing artificial support for the rifle, sling, or competitor's limbs or torso, are not permitted in either the outer or under garments.
- 17.2.1.4 Full cover footwear must be worn at all times on the firing line and in the butts.
- 17.2.1.5 Head dress is optional. Specialist target rifle shooting hats are not permitted.
- 17.2.1.6 Wet weather clothing may be used.
- 17.2.2 Hearing protection must be worn by all competitors and range staff while on or in the vicinity of the firing point.
- 17.2.3 Gloves and shooting mitts are not permitted.
- 17.2.4 Ground Sheets may be used in all courses of fire for the protection of the competitor's clothing and/or equipment provided that is not constructed nor utilised in such a way as to provide artificial support for the competitor or his rifle. Ground sheets and mats of more than 5mm thickness and specialist shooting mats are not permitted.
- 17.2.5 Shooting Glasses may be worn provided they have conventional frames with no additions or side blinkers attached to the frames. Sunglasses and prescription spectacles are permitted. Spectacles with adjustable irises and specialist shooting monoculars are not permitted.
- 17.2.6 Optical Aides. Binoculars and telescopes are permitted, together with stands or rests, provided they do not inconvenience other competitors or provide any support or shelter for the rifle or competitor. They may be used for deliberate practices and to view sighting shots for other practices.

17.3 Ammunition

- 17.3.1 Competitors are to provide their own ammunition.
- 17.3.2 Ammunition may be scrutinized by the organising body.
- 17.3.3 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure the ammunition being used is the correct ammunition for the rifle being used.

17.4 Rifle Functioning, Safety and Readiness Orders

- 17.4.1 Misfires, Jams and Breakages. Competitors are required to use the same rifle for all matches. If a rifle becomes unserviceable because of mechanical failure or for safety reasons, a competitor may with the permission of the CRO use another rifle. No allowance will be made for misfires or jams, due to a defect or breakage in either the rifle, magazine or if caused by the action of the firer.
- 17.4.2 Readiness Orders:-
 - Load:* On the command 'Load' the bolt is to be inserted in the rifle, the rifle is to be loaded with the number of rounds required under the match conditions, either by using single rounds or by inserting a suitable filled magazine into the rifle. The trigger finger is to be

positioned outside the trigger guard and the rifle is to be pointed in the direction of the targets.

Action: On the command 'Action' the action of the rifle is to be closed so that a round is fed into the chamber. The butt may be placed in contact with the shoulder and the direction of the muzzle and the placement of the trigger finger outside the trigger guard is to be maintained.

Watch & Shoot:

On the command 'Watch & Shoot' the trigger finger may be placed inside the trigger guard and, upon the appearance of the target or targets, firing may commence in accordance with the match conditions.

Unload: On the command 'Unload' the action of the rifle is to be opened, the plate dropped or magazine removed, the bolt removed, and the chamber and magazine inspected by the firer to ensure both are empty.

Inspect Weapons:

After the firers have acted in accordance with the order 'Unload' the command 'Inspect Weapons' is to be given. On this command the Safety Officers, located at each end of the detail, are to move inwards stopping at each competitor in turn inspecting rifles and magazines.

Clear and Clear to Remove:

Once inspected each Safety Officer is to audibly declare the firearm and magazine to be 'Clear' before proceeding to the next competitor. As the two Safety Officers meet and their duties overlap, the audible order is to change to 'Clear to Remove'. Each rifle and magazine will have been inspected twice. Then and only then will any firer in the detail leave the firing point.

17.4.3 Unfired rounds remaining in magazines must be removed and the magazines cleared before leaving the firing point.

17.4.4 Dry firing with an unloaded rifle may only be conducted on the firing point with the permission of the CRO.

17.5 Firing Positions

17.5.1 The firing positions are defined as follows:-

17.5.1.1 *Lying:*- In the lying/prone position the butt plate of the rifle must be placed against the shoulder or armpit and all parts of the rifle and the arms below the elbow, including clothing must visibly be clear of the ground and all other objects. If the sling is not used as an assistance in steadying the rifle, it may drape on the ground. The back of the forward wrist must be at least 10cm clear of the ground.

17.5.1.2 *Standing:*- In the standing position the body must be erect on both feet. No other part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object. The rifle may be supported by the forward hand under the magazine. The elbow of the forward arm may be rested on the hip.

17.5.1.3 *Sitting:*- In the sitting position the weight of the body is supported on the

buttocks. No part of the body above the buttocks is to touch the ground or any other object. Legs may be parted or crossed and may be in front of the edge of the firing point. The buttocks are not to be positioned forward of the lane marking peg. The rifle may be held in any convenient way provided the butt is in the shoulder.

- 17.5.1.4 *Kneeling*:- In the kneeling position no part of the body is to touch the ground or any other object except one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The forward elbow/arm may rest on the knee. The rifle may be held in any convenient way provided the butt is in the shoulder.
- 17.5.2 The firer may rest [if permitted in the match conditions] in any safe position. For example, after firing sighting shots in a rapid match the firer may rest with the rifle butt in the shoulder.
- 17.5.3 No hole may be made in the firing point which would assist the competitor to hold the rifle steady.

17.6 Conduct of Shooting

- 17.6.1 To allow competitors to familiarise themselves with the range orders which will be given, the range orders and butts instructions are shown in Appendix 4a to this Chapter.

17.6.2 Firing Point Procedure

- 17.6.2.1 Each sighting shot will be signalled by a spotting disc. For the second sighting shot and during the forced application practice, the target is to be engaged with the disc in place. Sighting shots are to be fired in the firing position specified for the match and are not convertible.
- 17.6.2.2 When the practice has been completed the Range Officer will ask for any protests. If there are no protests, or on completion of any re-shoots allowed, the Range Officer will signal to the butts to check the targets.
- 17.6.2.3 Scores will be taken and the total number of hits and their value will be shown on a score board or telephoned to the firing point. The Range Officer will repeat these details so that the competitors can hear and then record them on the score cards.
- 17.6.2.4 Spotting Discs will be placed in as many shot holes as possible on the scoring area and targets raised at the same time as the score board, if used, is shown.
- 17.6.2.5 Once the competitors have seen the score boards or have been told their scores, and have had a chance to see their targets with spotting discs, the Range Officer will ask for any challenges.
- 17.6.2.6 Once challenges have been dealt with, or if there are no challenges, the Range Officer will order the butts to 'patch out'.
- 17.6.2.7 On completion of the match the score cards are to be checked and countersigned. It is the competitor's responsibility to check that the score card has been correctly completed in all respects before it is handed to the Range Officer.
- 17.6.2.8 Any objection to the scores entered on a score card must be made on the firing point at the time. No competitor or team has the right to object at any subsequent time.

17.6.3 Marking and Scoring

- 17.6.3.1 Score registers may be maintained in the butts but the official record is the score card.
- 17.6.3.2 Spotting disc indications are white for a V Bull, red for a Bull, white for an Inner, Red for a Magpie and an Outer.
- 17.6.3.3 Sighting shots, once they have been marked are to be patched out as soon as practicable.
- 17.6.3.4 A spotting disc that has been hit will not be used again until it has been patched.
- 17.6.3.5 Spotting discs will not be placed in the shot holes until the score has been taken.
- 17.6.3.6 No shot holes will be pasted over or partially patched out until the order to patch out is given. The order to patch out scoring shots will be given by the Range Officer.
- 17.6.3.7 When a shot touches the line between two divisions of the target, the competitor will be credited with the higher value.
- 17.6.3.8 If less than the maximum number of hits allowed is found at least two markers are to check the target to determine whether two or more shots have struck close together. This check must be carried out before spotting discs are placed in the holes.

17.6.4 Message to the Butts

- 17.6.4.1 Messages to the butts are shown in Appendix 4a to this Chapter.

17.6.5 Challenges

- 17.6.5.1 On receipt of a request to challenge and on payment of the challenge fee, all spotting discs are to be removed and the Butts Officer is to personally examine the target. Spotting discs will then be replaced and the target and score board [if used] raised. The firer is to be advised of the Butts Officer's decision before the practice continues.
- 17.6.5.2 The call for challenges by a Range Officer, when the targets are displayed on completion of the practices, will be the last opportunity for a challenge.

17.6.6 Protests

- 17.6.6.1 Any claim or complaint arising at a firing point is to be made at once by way of protest to the Range Officer. If this decision is disputed, or if the protest is not dealt with on the spot, it must at once be put in writing by the competitor and handed by him to a representative of the organising body. If necessary the organising body will convene a Disputes Committee to deal with the protest.

17.6.7 Excess Hits

- 17.6.7.1 When in any practice the total number of hits on a competitor's target exceeds the number of shots he fired and when there is no means of identifying these shots, for example if there are two different calibres, all the hits will be signalled in the usual way and the procedure will then be as follows:

- 17.6.7.2 If it can be proved that the excess hits were made by the competitor firing more than the number of shots allowed, the score will be disallowed and the penalty may be disqualification.
- 17.6.7.3 If the number of excess hits does not exceed one shot, i.e. six shots total, the top five scoring shots will be scored.
- 17.6.7.4 If the number of shots exceeds six the score will be cancelled and the competitor will re-shoot. A re-shoot will be as for the original shoot, including sighters, if applicable.

17.6.8 Timing

- 17.6.8.1 A stop watch is to be used for the timing of exposures. Practices are to be timed by the Butts Officer.
- 17.6.8.2 The raising and lowering of targets is to be carried out as quickly as possible. In all types of practices the exposure will be timed from the moment the target is up and steady until the time it is lowered. When more than one competitor fires at one and the same time, the competitors composing a detail are to fire to the one timing. No verbal indication as to how the time is passing is allowed.

17.6.9 Disturbance

- 17.6.9.1 No person is to make any noise which is likely to affect a firer. Firers who wish to make a protest are to indicate their intention to the Range Officer so as not to disturb other firers where possible. It may be necessary to inform the Range Officer of the protest quickly, that is, during rapid and snap practices or if the firer cannot gain the attention of the Range Officer. In such cases the firer is to call 'Protest'.

17.6.10 Ties

- 17.6.10.1 Ties are to be decided by counting back from the last practice fired. The competitor with the higher value last practice is the winner. If still a tie the second last practice is considered, then third last and so on.
- 17.6.10.2 If the tie is still not resolved a shoot off of one sighter followed by five scoring shots, then if still equal, shot for shot until the tie is broken.

17.7 Penalties and Procedures

- 17.7.1 *Warning*:- Range Officers should warn a competitor who appears to be about to break a rule unless he is actually firing or has begun a practice. In other cases of infringement of rules Range Officers will not stop an offender who is firing or has begun a practice, but as soon as he has finished firing inform him of the penalty incurred.
- 17.7.2 *Dangerous Act*:- For any dangerous act, the firer will be immediately stopped and ordered to unload, by taking the magazine off the rifle and removing the round from the chamber [where applicable].
- 17.7.3 *Disqualification*:- A breach of rules will incur disqualification for dangerous acts, deliberate cheating, or committing an unintentional breach of the rules whereby the offending competitor gains an outstanding advantage over the other competitors. Lateness may

entail disqualification. Firing more shots in a timed exposure than is allowed by match conditions will normally result in disqualification.

- 17.7.4 *Negligent Discharge*:- A negligent discharge is defined as any round fired, unless it is fired at or in the direction of the target after the order 'Watch and Shoot' has been given and before the order 'Unload' has been given. In the event of a negligent discharge, the competitor will invariably be disqualified from the match.
- 17.7.5 *Illegal Modification of Rifles*:- If any illegal modification of a rifle is found after a competitor has fired a match the score made will be disallowed.

17.8 Courses of Fire

- 17.8.1 The courses of fire for both FCTS and RCTS are outlined in Appendices 4b and 4c to this Chapter.

17.9 Targets and Ancillary Equipment

- 17.9.1 Targets and ancillary equipment for FCTS and RCTS are outlined in Appendix 4d to this Chapter.

17.10 Free Class Rimfire Target Shooting

- 17.10.1 Any Rimfire rifle which may be legally held by the competitor for use on an approved firearms range, excluding return to battery (e.g., machine rest where alignment between shots is not required).

17.10.2 Calibre

22 Rimfire only (Note some ranges have a subsonic velocity limit due to noise abatement requirements).

17.10.3 Trigger

Any safe mechanically operated trigger may be used. A trigger is deemed safe if the vigorous cycling of the action does not cause the firing pin to be released.

17.10.3.1

Triggers must be protected by a trigger guard.

17.10.4 Sights

Any sighting system is permitted providing that it must be aligned by eye for each shot.

17.10.5 Weight

Refer to Match Conditions & Divisions.

17.10.6 Ammunition

Any 22 Rimfire ammunition suitable for use in a rifle and legally able to be used on the range. (Note variations in Range Approvals may restrict use of magnums and supersonic rounds on some ranges.).

17.10.7 Match Conditions & Divisions

- 17.10.7.1 There are 3 divisions:-

(a) Hunting Style Rifles:- with or without magazine, with maximum unloaded weight of 4.5kg including sight and sling but not including

attached bipod or rest.

(b) Target Rifle:- similar to small-bore style rifles with a maximum unloaded weight of 7.5kg including sight and sling but not including attached bipod or rest.

(c) Magnum Rimfire Rifles:- (subject to Range Template approval) with a maximum unloaded weight of 7.5kg including sight but not including attached bipod.

17.10.8 Support

17.10.8.1 Any front and rear support that are connected together are deemed to be a return to battery or machine rest and are prohibited.

17.10.8.2 Any type of support which may or may not be attached to the rifle may be employed.

17.10.8.3 If the rest is attached to the rifle (e.g. Bipod) then the maximum weight of any attachment that recoils or lifts with the rifle when removed from the firing point shall be 2kg.

17.10.8.4 If the rest is not attached to the rifle then the maximum dimensions of contact between the rifle's forend and the rest shall be 52mm wide, 76mm long and 25mm high and shall not restrict the upward movement of the rifle in any way.

17.10.8.5 If the shooter's hand with or without glove/mitten is between the rest and the rifle then there are no restrictions.

17.10.8.6 Any unattached front rest used on soft ground such as a grass mound may have up to 3 spikes no longer than 50mm. Said spikes shall not restrict the movement of the rifle under recoil or cause damage to the range. The use of a stop pin to position the rifle is prohibited.

17.10.8.7 Any attached front rest may be fitted with articulated and or sliding feet. The use of spikes attached to or inserted into feet to restrict the movement of rifle under recoil is prohibited.

17.10.8.8 The use of a sling is permitted.

17.11 Rear Rests

17.11.1 Where a rear rest is used the rest shall be a sandbag with or without ears that is packed with any loose material such that the bag will be able to be easily compressed by the range officer's fingers.

17.11.2 Any number of packing pieces of any material may be placed under the rear sandbag to compensate for shooting point profile.

17.11.3 The use of the shooters hand, with or without glove/mitten or arm is permitted.

17.11.4 The butt magazine or trigger guard of the rifle shall not contact any hard object or the ground/floor.

17.11.5 The rear rest or packing pieces shall not be fitted with spikes.

17.12 Special Dispensations

17.12.1 Where the shooter has a disability that precludes shooting from the prone position then, with prior approval of the organisers of the competition, the use of suitable aids such as a portable table/bench or any other aid deemed

suitable by the organisers is authorised.

- 17.12.2 Where the publicly advertised conditions for a specific competition by the promoting body states, that the use of a portable table or bench may be used, then the promoting body must provide on request benches or table for any competitor who chooses to use such a bench or table and does not have his or her own bench.
- 17.12.3 Where a portable bench or table is used it is to be set up between stages so as not to inconvenience other shooters.

17.13 Shooting Mats

When used must comply with current rules for TR shooting under SSRs.

17.14 Clothing

Clothing is unrestricted.

17.15 Grading

All divisions of Rimfire (RCTS) shooting will be ungraded.

17.16 Shooting Position

All shooting shall be from the prone position unless exempted under Rule 17.12.

17.17 Trigger Testing

- 17.17.1 At the beginning of each day's competition the shooter has to demonstrate to the Scorer or Range Officer that the trigger is safe by carrying out a cycle test as specified under current Rule 2.5.3.4. The use of a snap cap is recommended during the test to protect the firing pin.
- 17.17.2 The Range Officer may randomly carry out trigger testing during the competition at any time.

17.18 Conduct of Shoots and Range Safety

- 17.18.1 All FCTS (Chapter 17 SSR's) safety regulations shall apply.
- 17.18.2 Shooters will contest matches in squads with target exposure and removal from view at the beginning and end of timed sequences as for FCTS.
- 17.18.3 Where a rifle is fitted with a magazine up to 5 rounds may be loaded into said magazine. Loading time will be included within the time limit allowed.
- 17.18.4 Loading can only be carried out at the firing point.
- 17.18.5 More than 1 magazine may be used but each must be loaded by the competitor at the firing point during allocated time.
- 17.18.6 A dummy magazine with loading plate may be substituted for single shot operation.
- 17.18.7 At the completion of a stage the firearm and any magazines are to be inspected by two Range Safety Officers before they can be removed from the firing point.
- 17.18.8 Any firearm that does not have a removable bolt (e.g. Lever action) must have a chamber safety flag inserted into the action and the action open at all times when not on the firing point.

17.19 Sighting Shots

17.19.1 Unless otherwise specified in the match conditions the competitor is entitled to 3 non-convertible sighting shots.

17.20 Time Limits

17.20.1 For a 10 shot match at any distance 8 minutes excluding sighting shots.

17.20.2 For a 20 shot match at any distance 15 minutes excluding sighting shots.

17.20.3 For Sighting shots, allow 1 minute for each sighting shot plus 1 minute for evaluation and adjustment on the last shot.

17.21 Ranges

17.21.1 50 metres or 60 yards/metres.

17.21.2 90 metres or 100 yards.

17.22 Target Sizes

Score	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
50M	5mm	10mm	27mm	43mm	58mm		
90M	14mm	26mm	51mm	75mm	102mm	126mm	152

17.23 Target Marking

17.23.1 50 metre targets shall have 11 aiming marks. The sighting target being the centre aiming mark (middle line marked with a square border).

17.23.2 For a 10 shot match one counting shot to be fired at each remaining aiming mark.

17.23.3 For a 20 shot match two counting shots to be fired at each remaining aiming mark.

17.23.4 90 metre targets shall have 3 targets attached to the frame with the centre target designated as the sighting target.

17.23.5 5 counting shots to be fired at each scoring target for a 10 shot match.

17.23.6 10 counting shots to be fired at each scoring target for a 20 shot match.

17.23.7 Shots exceeding the specified number will be counted as misses.

17.23.8 All targets shall be clearly marked with squad and firing position identification numbers and must be returned to the scoring point at the completion of each squad shoot.

17.24 Tied Scores

17.24.1 Tied scores shall be resolved by counting back. If no resolution is possible then a shoot off shall result with 2 non optional sighting shots and 5 counting shots. If the scores are still tied the shoot off will proceed on a 5 shot basis until the tie is broken. A time limit of 45 seconds per shot as per TR rules will apply. The target will be scored after each 5 shot stage.

17.24.2 Gauging

All close hits on the scoring target shall be gauged and valued by use of a .22 calibre rimfire gauge.

17.25 Butts Marking

17.25.1 Field Class .22 rimfire spotting discs to be used for sighting shots only. Each sighting shot will retain the spotter until the completion of sight series and then patched out.

- 17.25.2 Any sighting shot that lands on a scoring target shall be spotted and the spotter removed and patched out just before the commencement of the scoring series.
- 17.25.3 The targets will be raised and lowered only on command of the Range and Butts Officers.
- 17.25.4 The Range and Butts Officer in conjunction can have the targets pulled down for spotting once they are satisfied that all sighting shots have been fired.

17.26 Spotting Scopes

- 17.26.1 The use of spotting scopes on a stand is approved in addition to the rifle scope already fitted.

17.27 Range Types

Free Class Rimfire can run on Fixed, Turning Target or Manual Butts Ranges.