

Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports

MUZZLELOADING RIFLE RULES

3. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION

3.4 Muzzleloading rifle – Any safe muzzleloading rifle of common design .54 caliber or lower with either flintlock or caplock ignition and equipped with metallic sights (see 3.7) or their equivalent may be used.

3.7 Sights – Metallic sights are defined as any sighting system made of metal or equivalent materials that provide a means of aligning two separate visible sights or reference points mounted on the rifle. Telescopic sights (optical) or any sights designed to project an image on the target or to operate the firing mechanism are prohibited.

3.8 Spotting scopes – The use of a telescope or binoculars to spot shots is permitted. They may be positioned forward of the shooter's forward shoulder. Competitors must spot their own shots.

3.11 Gloves – Gloves of the type commonly worn as clothing may be worn, but specialized shooting gloves designed for competition may not be worn.

3.12 Padding – Shoulder pads may be worn while shooting as long as they do not provide artificial support. Competitive shooting coats may not be used.

3.13 Slings – Rifle slings may not be used.

3.14 Palm rest – Palm rests may not be used.

3.15 Schuetzen butt plates – Hooked butt plates of this design may not be used, but standard curved butt plates are permitted.

3.17 Powder charge limitation – Powder charges are limited to 60 grains of black powder or its volumetric equivalent. No smokeless powder permitted.

3.18 Projectiles – In the muzzleloading event all projectiles are restricted to patched round balls.

4 TARGETS

4.1 NMRLA TG2406 100 yard Target, 14 x 16, 8 ring black, will be used.

5 SHOOTING POSITION

5.1 Standing position – All shooting for seniors and juniors shall be from the standing position. The same standing position used in 3-position shooting may be used. The elbow or upper arm of the forward hand may be placed against the body or supported on the hip. Sub juniors will shoot from the bench.

6.0 RANGE STANDARDS

6.1 Loading line – Loading, except for capping or changing the flash pan, will take place on the designated loading line which will be positioned facing down range. Powder cans may be open only when actually filling a powder measure. Open powder cans left on the range are subject to

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confiscation by the range staff. Parents and spectators will be restricted to a designated area. Only the designated coach will be allowed to the loading bench. Coaches will not be allowed past the loading bench.

6.2 Firing line – The firing line is immediately in front of the firing points. All measurements of range are taken from the firing line to the face of the target.

6.4 Shelter – Firing points may be protected by a roof but may not be wholly or partly enclosed. Competitors must be exposed to the prevailing winds. Umbrellas or other types of temporary shelters may not be used by competitors on the firing line.

6.5 Distance – Distances used in these matches range from 15 to 100 yards.

a. Sub junior – 15 yards to 25 yards.

b. Juniors – 25 yards to 50 yards.

c. Seniors – 50 yards to 100 yards.

6.6 Target numbers – Numbers on target frames will correspond to the numbers on the firing points and be large enough to be read with normal vision.

6.7 Modifications – The Shooting Sports Project Coordinator may make modifications to the Range Standards as required to adapt to the available range facility.

7.0 Course of Fire

7.1 Course of Fire

a. Sub juniors

1) 15 yards. One target, 5 record shots.

b. Juniors

1) 25 yards. Two targets, 5 record shots at each.

c. Seniors

1) 50 yards. Three targets, 5 record shots at each.

8.0 TIME LIMITS

8.1 Running time – Time is computed as a running total of each stage or series of shots. The range officer may terminate the firing time if all shooters have completed their firing. Time allowed but not used does not carry over to following stages. The shooter is responsible for pacing their shooting to meet the time limitations.

8.2 Time allowances

a. Sub juniors - 30 minute running time for 5 record shots.

b. Juniors - 30 minute running time for 5 record shots. 60 minute total time.

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c. **Seniors** - 30 minute running time for 5 record shots. 90 minute total time.

9.0 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

9.1 Changing rifle – Competitors may change rifles only if the rifle has been disabled.

9.5 Disabled rifle – A disabled rifle is one which cannot be properly aimed (including damage or loss of the sights) or safely fired, or one which does not function properly. Rifles declared disabled cannot be used again until the defect has been fixed and it has been declared safe by the range officer. A rifle used to replace a defective rifle must be of the same caliber and type as the disabled rifle. A competitor will be given a minimum of 20 minutes to repair or replace the rifle before being called back to the range to fire.

9.6 Malfunction – Failure of the rifle to fire because of a mechanical defect is considered a malfunction. Improper operation of the firearm is not a malfunction.

9.10 Coaching – Coaching is prohibited in individual matches.

9.25 Cross fire and excessive hits – No shooter will knowingly fire at the target of another or fire more than the required number of shots on his/her own target.

10.0 Range Commands, Control and Operation –

10.0 Standard range control commands are used in these events.

10.1.1 Ramrod in the bore – Each muzzleloading rifle on the line will have a marked ramrod in the bore indicating that it is empty when it is brought to the line. Rifles will be racked with the muzzles pointed in a safe direction until authorized by the range officer to load. At that time caps may be fired downrange and into the ground beyond the firing line to clear the bore and make it ready for loading. Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will careless handling be permitted.

10.1.2 Rifles unloaded – No rifle will be loaded until shooters are in position with the rifles pointed in a safe direction on the loading line and the command to load is given.

10.1.3 Loaded rifles – Any rifle on the loading or firing lines will be considered loaded and treated as such at all times.

10.1.4 Capping or charging – Rifles may be capped or charged only on the firing line.

10.1.5 Cease firing – All firing must stop immediately. Caps will be removed or priming powder dumped. Shooters with a loaded rifle will remain on the line with the rifle pointed in a safe direction and raise a hand to indicate that their rifles are still loaded. The rifles may be discharged into the backstop berm, but not at the targets on the command to “**dump it in the hill.**”

10.1.6 Not ready – Any competitor who is not ready to fire at the query “is the line read?” must respond immediately by stating “not ready” and their firing point number.

10.3.1 Preparation period – Competitors will be permitted three minutes to take their places on the firing line and prepare to fire after being called to the firing line.

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10.7.1 Firing line procedures and commands – These commands may be given by the chief range officer or another individual designated by the chief range officer.

a. Relay to the firing line – The relay and match or match number will be stated as an immediate call to the firing line. This command will be followed immediately by stating “the preparation period starts now.” At the end of three minutes, the range officer will announce “the preparation period has ended.”

b. Load – After seeing that the range is clear and the competitors are ready, the range officer proceeds with the firing commands, beginning with “load.”

c. Is the line ready – At this command, any competitor who is not ready will state either “the line is ready” or “the line is not ready” as is appropriate. If the line is not ready, he will repeat the process.

d. Preparatory commands – After stating that the line is ready, the range officer will state the following sequence of commands on approximately 3 second intervals unless inabilities of the range to operate or safety considerations occur. “Ready on the right,” “ready on the left,” and “ready on the firing line” constitute a sequenced preparation for the command to fire or exposure of the targets.

e. Commence firing – This command may be given verbally, by a short blast on a whistle or by moving concealed or half-mast targets into full view. Timing will begin with the commence firing command.

f. Cease firing – Two types of cease fire situations are addressed.

1) Unsafe conditions – In the event of an unsafe condition on the range or some other condition demanding an immediate cease fire, the range officer will state “cease fire.” In the event of such a command, competitors will immediately cease firing, remove the caps or priming powder and keep the rifles pointed in a safe direction.

2) Completion of match or series – At the end of the time period for any match or series of shots, the range officer will state “cease fire and remain in position until the line is cleared.” That will be followed by the queries “are there any alibis or saved rounds?” Once these have been resolved, the range officer will ask competitors with loaded rifles to “**dump it in the hill**” before declaring the line clear.

g. As you were – Disregard the command just given regardless of what it was and return to the status prior to the last command.

h. Carry on – This means to continue whatever was being done before an interruption occurred.

10.9 Malfunction or failure to fire – The competitor must keep the rifle on the shoulder and pointed downrange for one minute, then keep it pointed downrange for another minute before attempting to rectify the situation. A range officer will respond to a raised hand or verbal request for assistance.

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14.0 SCORING

14.1 Scoring times – Targets may be scored as designated by shoot management, but usually will be scored after each relay has completed each stage in their course of fire.

14.2 Scoring location – Scoring will be accomplished as designated by shoot management, either on the range or in the statistical office.

14.3 How to score – In contrast to NMLRA rules, the highest value scoring area touched by the projectile on the Haffner and bullseye targets will be scored. On the bottle target, the hits will be scored conventionally.

14.4 Misses – Shot outside the scoring area on the targets will be scored as misses and given the value of zero.

14.5 Early or late shots – Shots fired before the command “commence firing” or after the command “cease firing” will be scored as misses. If the order of the shots cannot be determined, the penalty will be assessed to the corresponding number of hits of highest value.

14.6 All shots count – all shots fired by the competitor after record shooting has begun will be counted in the score, even if the rifle was discharged unintentionally.

14.7 Hits on the wrong target – Hits on the wrong target will be scored as misses.

14.9 Visible hits and close groups – Generally only clearly visible hits on a target will be scored. In cases where three or more hits are in a group that would permit another shot to go through the enlarged hole without leaving a mark and where there is no evidence that the shot went elsewhere and there are no excessive hits on targets on either side of the target in question, the shooter will be given the higher score that could be possible within the group of shots.

14.10 Excessive hits – On paper targets by competitor or another shooter must be declared to match officials immediately. Once match is declared officially completed excessive hits will be scored with the highest scoring hits subtracted for each excessive hit.

Revision history: Initial release: 2/17/2005

Revised 9/13/06: Replaced TG2400 target with TG2406, 5 shots per target was 6 per target, sub-junior distance was 10 yards, and added paragraph 6.7.