

# Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports

## SMALLBORE RIFLE RULES

This is a synopsis of the smallbore (.22 rimfire) rifle rules for the Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports Project. For each discipline the responsible National Governing Body (NGB) is the primary source of rules. There may be some modifications to the NGB rules to meet the objectives of the project. The primary purpose of this document is to document any such modifications. In 4-H events, 4-H rules and regulations supersede all others where differences exist. All coaches and participants are encouraged to obtain all relevant rules and to become thoroughly familiar with them.

The three rimfire rifle competition categories are: CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) Rimfire Sporter, NRA (National Rifle Association) Three Position, and NRA Smallbore Hunting Silhouette.

### **CMP Rimfire Sporter**

The CMP Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match gives shooters a recreation oriented competition that allows them to use their rimfire sporters (plinking and small game rifles) on the range. To shoot this match, all you need is a rifle and ammo. Special competition gear is not required or permitted. Competitors use standard, sporter-type rimfire rifles that can weigh no more than 7 ½ pounds with sights. Rifles may be manually operated or semi-automatic. Shooters with manually operated actions are given extra time in rapid-fire. There are two classes of competition, "O-Class," where competitors use open sighted rifles, and "T-Class," where competitors have telescopic or receiver sights on their rifles. Rimfire Sporter firing is done at 50 and 25 yards on a specially designed target. The Rimfire Sporter Rifle course of fire is challenging, but new shooters can successfully complete it. Shooters begin at 50 yards with a ten-minute sighting or practice series. Next they shoot ten shots for record slow-fire in the prone position, followed by two five-shot rapid-fire series in prone. This is followed by ten shots slow-fire and two five-shot rapid-fire series in the sitting or kneeling position. Most shooters choose to fire this stage in the sitting position. Targets are then placed at the 25-yard line where shooters conclude with ten shots slow-fire and two five shot rapid-fire series in the standing position. (Adapted from the CMP Guide to Rimfire Sporter Shooting.)

**Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match Rules:** The rules that govern Rimfire Sporter Rifle shooting are published in the CMP Guide to Rimfire Sporter Shooting. This document can be obtained from the CMP web site at <http://www.odcmp.com/Competitions/RFGuide.pdf>.

### **Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports Modifications:**

- All participants are required to wear hearing and eye protection.
- Shooters will be categorized into the 4-H sub-junior, junior, and senior age categories. Each age category will be separated into the "O" and "T" classes.
- Sub-juniors will fire the rapid fire stages starting in position and will fire the standing stages while seated at a shooting bench.
- Juniors will fire the rapid fire stages starting in position.
- The Shooting Sports Coordinator may make changes to the course of fire as required to adapt to the facilities and time that are available.

## Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports

- Club shooting sports leaders must certify that members are adequately prepared to safely and competently participate in any Pima County 4-H Rimfire Sporter match that the member enters.

**The following match synopsis is adapted from the CMP Guide to Rimfire Sporter Shooting and provided for information only.**

**RIFLES ALLOWED.** Rifles used in the Rimfire Sporter Rifle Match must be standard sporter-type rimfire rifles that meet the following requirements:

- Overall weight of the rifle may not exceed 7 ½ pounds, with sights. If a sling is used, it may be removed when the rifle is weighed.
- The stock may have a sling swivel, but it must be fixed in one location (rails with adjustable sling swivels are not permitted). Thumbhole stocks, adjustable butt plates, adjustable cheek pieces and rails or adjustable (moveable) sling swivels are not permitted.
- Any safe rimfire rifle with any type of action may be used. Rifles should have a magazine capable of holding five rounds so it can be used during rapid-fire stages. Single shot rifles are permitted, but using a single shot to fire five shots in 30 seconds in rapid-fire is difficult. Rifles with clip, box or tube-type magazines may be used, however, tube magazines are more difficult to reload quickly during rapid-fire shooting.
- The trigger must be capable of lifting a three-pound weight when cocked. Telescopic, receiver or open sights may be used. Shooters who use rifles with telescopic or receiver (aperture) sights compete in the T-Class. Scopes are limited to six power (6X). If a variable scope is used, the power adjustment may not exceed 6X and it must be taped in that location. Any rifles with receiver (aperture or 'peep') sights must be used in the T-Class. Shooters who use rifles with open sights compete in the O-Class. Hooded front sights may not be used in the O-Class.
- A standard leather or web sling no wider than 1 ¼ inches may be used in the prone and sitting or kneeling positions. Slings may not be used in the standing position to provide support, but the sling may remain on the rifle.

**AMMUNITION.** Shooters in Rimfire Sporter Matches may select and use any ammunition they wish. Shooters must be sure to select ammunition that not only shoots accurately, but that functions reliably when fed from a magazine during rapid fire since there are no alibis or refires for malfunctions in Rimfire Sporter.

**RIMFIRE SPORTER TARGETS.** The official 50/25 yard Rimfire Sporter target is a large target (21" x 24") that has scoring rings large enough that beginning shooters can consistently score hits, but it has a 10-ring that challenges even the best shooters. The largest scoring ring, the "one ring," is 18" in diameter. The aiming bull or "black" (includes 10-9-8-7 rings) is 7 1/8" in diameter so it can be used as an aiming mark for open-sighted rifles with bead front sights. The "ten ring" is 1 ¾" in diameter and is printed white so it can serve as an aiming mark for shooters who use telescopic sights.

## Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports

**COURSE OF FIRE.** The CMP Rimfire Sporter course of fire calls for firing an unlimited number of sighting or practice shots and 60 shots for record. Record firing is done in six stages of 10 shots each. A new target or replacement center is normally hung for each stage. The first four stages are fired at 50 yards distance. The last two are fired at 25 yards.

- Sighting Stage, 50 yards, unlimited sighting shots, prone position, 10 minute time limit. Competitors may fire as many sighting shots as they wish during the 10-minute time limit. The scorer or another competitor may spot shots and assist the competitor in sighting in his/her rifle as long as this does not disturb other competitors. A rest or support may be used in this stage only.
- Stage 1, 50 yards, 10 shots for record, prone position, 10 minute time limit.
- Stage 2, 50 yards, two series of five shots for record, standing to prone, rapid-fire, time limit is 25 seconds for semi-autos, 30 seconds for manually operated rifles. Rapid fire series are five-shots, both because more shots cannot be loaded in some rifles and because this tests the shooter's ability to quickly assume or stable firing position.
- Stage 3, 50 yards, 10 shots for record, sitting or kneeling position, 10 minute time limit.
- Stage 4, 50 yards, two series of five shots for record, standing to sitting or kneeling position, rapid-fire, time limit is 25 seconds for semi-autos, 30 seconds for manually operated rifles.
- Stage 5, 25 yards, 10 shots for record, standing position, 10 minute time limit.
- Stage 6, 25 yards, two series of five shots for record, standing position (shooter must start with rifle butt at the hip), rapid-fire, time limit is 25 seconds for semi-autos, 30 seconds for manually operated rifles.

**ONE-HALF COURSE OF FIRE.** Match sponsors also have the option of conducting a "half-course" event where five shots are fired in each stage and a total of 30 record shots are fired.

**EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATORS(ECIs).** ECIs are an important means of ensuring safety on shooting ranges. ECIs have a probe that is inserted into the rifle chamber and a yellow safety flag that projects out of the open action. When an ECI is inserted in a rifle, it unmistakably confirms that the action is open and the chamber is empty. In matches conducted by the CMP, all Rimfire Sporter shooters must keep ECIs in their rifles at all times except when they are on the firing line during a preparation or firing period. The use of ECIs is now required in all CMP-sanctioned competitions. ECIs may be ordered from CMP Sales (NLU244, \$3.99/12).

**MALFUNCTIONS.** If a rifle malfunctions or misfires during a precision stage, the shooter may clear the malfunction and attempt to fire again. If the rifle cannot be cleared, remain in position, keep the muzzle pointed downrange and raise your hand for assistance. No alibis or refires are allowed if a rifle or ammunition malfunction occurs. This means that it is essential to keep your rifle clean and in good working condition so that it will not malfunction during rapid-fire stages.

## **Pima County 4-H Shooting Sports**

**SCORING.** In Rimfire Sporter, the match sponsor may appoint official scorers or competitors may be asked to score the targets of other competitors. If competitors score, each shooter should score the target of the shooter on his/her right. The official scorers or Range Officers must have .22 cal. scoring gauges for use in deciding doubtful shots. The score of gauged shots must be written on the target and initialed by the scorer. Scores from all targets are then posted on a bulletin board or computer file.

**COACHING.** Shooters may coach or assist each other during the sighting or practice phase of the competition. You can have someone assist you in spotting your shots and zeroing your rifle, especially during the sighting series.

**SPOTTING SCOPES.** Competitors may use spotting scopes to spot the locations of their shots and assist in making sight adjustments.

**SHOOTERS' CLOTHING.** Shooting jackets, special shooting trousers or shooting boots may not be worn. A maximum of two sweatshirts or soft, pliable shirts may be worn. Regular work or hunting-type boots may be worn.

**OTHER EQUIPMENT.** Aside from a rifle, ammunition and spotting scope, there is very little additional equipment that is even permitted. One item of equipment that shooters can bring and use is a shooting mat. If you do not have a shooting mat, a 2' x 6' strip of carpet of similar material is quite adequate for protecting your elbows in prone and for keeping you dry if the ground is damp. Another item that many shooters use is a glove for the left hand (right-handed shooter). An ordinary work or sports glove can be used, but special shooting gloves or padded mitts or gloves are not legal.

**PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** All competitors and range personnel are urged to bring personal hearing and eye protection with them. Everyone on the firing line during Rimfire Sporter events is urged to wear shooting glasses or personal eyeglasses and ear plugs or muffs while firing takes place.

**NRA Three Position (Pima County 4-H Rules not yet established)**

**NRA Smallbore Hunting Silhouette (Pima County 4-H rules not yet established)**

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