

Effective – 02/01/08
Section I - Rules

COURSE OF FIRE

25 record shots at 25 yards in 20 minutes, from the bench at one target, on an open air range or indoors. Records will be maintained for both indoor and open air competition.

MATCH DEFINITION

A regular match contests three classes: Springer Class, Match Class, and Unlimited Class. A competitor can compete only one time in each class. Rifles and Pistols will shoot in their respected class based solely on muzzle energy and will be contested together for that particular class. A competitor only has to have one rifle to shoot in a match. If the competitor has more than one rifle and the second rifle is a different power such that it falls into another class, he can enter that rifle and shoot the other class if more than one relay is being shot at the range on that match date. (For example a competitor can shoot one rifle in unlimited class in relay 1 and shoot a match rifle in relay 2 provided he has paid the entry fee for both classes.)

EVENT DEFINITION

A match or matches held at one range over consecutive days or in a single day. An example of an EVENT would be a two day state championship match, Saturday and Sunday, at the same range.

SANCTIONED MATCH

A club must be sanctioned to hold an officially recognized AirGun Benchrest match. Sanction dues are \$20.00 per current year. Match dates and starting time for matches must be sent to the AirGun Benchrest business office thirty (30) days in advance of first match date. Sanctioning by AirGun Benchrest of a club's scheduled matches will be forfeited by that club if matches are not held in accordance with the Official Rules stated in this rule book.

RANGE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Outdoor 25Yard

A club must have a minimum of two benches. Front or rear of firing line must be open.

B. Indoor 25yard

A club must have a minimum of two benches. All official records will be recorded separately from open air range competition.

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

There must be a minimum of two competitors. Matches may be scheduled on any day of the week. Only two matches can be scheduled per month, with the exception of State and Regional Championships and the Nationals. The commence fire command for the first relay can not be before 8:00am or later than 9:00pm. All competitors' targets will clearly indicate which class and caliber of pellet the competitor is using for the match. All classes may be contested at the same time.

D. Registration Fees

A registration fee of \$1.00 per shooter per target (\$1.50 for State/Regional Championships), plus score sheets and signed registration forms, must be sent to AirGun Benchrest within thirty (30) days after match is held to be recognized as a sanctioned match.

E. Entry Fees

Entry fees per target for a regular match will not exceed \$8.00. Entry fees per target at State and Regional Championships will not exceed \$10.00. Cash options are allowed.

EQUIPMENT

The legality of any method, device, or equipment not addressed in these rules will be determined by AirGun Benchrest.

A. Air gun, rifle or pistol

.177 cal, .20 cal or .22 cal only may be used.

B. Ammunition

Ammunition must be a lead projectile produced by a factory manufacturing a minimum of 100,000 rounds a year.

C. Wind Flags

Wind flags can be utilized. Flags shall be no higher than line of sight from bench top to bottom of target. Wind flags may be changed when targets are changed and the range has been declared safe by the Rangemaster. No competitor can be forced to change legally set wind flags. The time allowed to change wind flags shall not be less than the time required to change the targets and no longer than the time allowed by the Rangemaster. If a flag interferes with a shooter's line of sight, the Rangemaster or representative will lay the flag on the ground. This must be done before commence fire. Any type of string line flag system will not be allowed.

D. Sand Bags or Rest

Any rest can be used as long as the rifle/pistol is not clamped to the bench nor is the rest clamped to the bench.

E. Target

Official AirGun Benchrest TARGET must be used. Targets are to be taken down by target crew and given directly to scorer. Targets must be hung with sighter targets at the top.

CLASSES

A. Unlimited

Unlimited scope power. Gun must be designed to be shoulder fired or for pistols, hand held

B. Match

Same rules as unlimited class. Muzzle energy 7 ft-pounds or less. (7 FPE)

C. Springer

Any rifle or pistol using a spring piston system for power. No PCP or CO2, no restrictions as to power. Recoilless actions may be used.

SCORING

A. Scoring Plug

Scoring plugs that are manufactured by "Rig" shall be used for .20 cal and .22 cal. These Rig plugs should measure 0.224 inches. Scoring plugs for 0.177 cal shall be supplied by AirGun Benchrest at no charge to sanctioned clubs. The 0.177 cal plug has been machined so that there is a step up to 0.224 inches allowing the 0.177 cal pellet to be scored fairly in relation to best edge scoring when completing against the 0.20 and 0.22 cal pellets. The same plug shall be used by the referees for all scoring protests at a match. The plug used shall be determined by the caliber specified at the top of the target.

B. Scoring Protest

After targets are scored, targets must be hung in full view of competitors. Targets are not to be handled by competitors until match results are declared official by Rangemaster. After last relay's targets are hung up, Rangemaster must give competitors a minimum of ten minutes to file any scoring protests with referees. If a competitor removes his target before the match results have been declared official by Rangemaster, he will be disqualified. A Rangemaster may impose a \$2 scoring protest fee per bullet hole. A \$2 protest fee is MANDATORY at State and Regional Championships and the Nationals.

C. Scoring Procedure

If a bullet hole touches a line or X on the target bull, shooter receives the highest point. If a plug must be used, the letter (P) must be written on that shot's square by scorer. Inner most ring counts as 10 points, and each succeeding ring counts one point less. Outer most ring counts as 6 points. If the center 10 ring is completely removed by the shot then the shot will be scored a 10X. If a shot is in a target square but misses the outer most ring of the bull, the score is zero. Any shot touching target square's inside or outside border lines will be counted in that block as a zero. A plug is to be used if visible determination cannot be made by scorer. Any bullet hole that is between blocks shall be plugged. The block that contains the majority of the bullet hole will count for that block as a zero. If more than one shot appears in target square, shooter receives lowest score minus one (1) point. Perfect score: 250 and 25X's. If any holes are bigger than a .22 plug the lowest score will be awarded. If more than two bullet holes are larger than a .22 plug, target will be disqualified. If first shot on paper hits a record target, shooter must notify Rangemaster or referee before second shot is fired. Rangemaster or referee must check target before second shot is fired and notify scorer that shooter will not be charged for that shot.

D. Ties

The Referees will check the targets starting with the #1 target block. First target block with higher points shot wins. If tie still exists after checking target blocks 1 through 25, go to #1 target block and check X's. The first one who gets an X and the other one does not match it wins. If tie still exists, go to #1 target block and the first X completely plugged out wins if not matched by other competitor.

1. Two Competitor Matches

In the event that there are only two competitors at a match and the two competitors can not agree on the actual score of a target then the match director shall send all the targets from the event to AirGun Benchrest for scoring. Also see notes on selection of scorer and referees below.

E. Crossfire

If a shooter fires on another shooter's target and admits mistake to Referee, shooter will be given that shot minus one point. If a shooter fires on your target, notify Rangemaster at once so you will not be penalized. If a shooter fires on another person's target and will not admit mistake, he can be disqualified.

DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

A. Rangemaster

Person in charge of shoot. Must have match sanctioned by requesting dates for matches in advance. Must send in results of each match with \$1.00 fee per target and registration forms within 30 days of match date. Results will consist of name of shooter, equipment list, class and score in order of finish. Must sign and send in all possible World Record targets with match results within 30 days of match date or target will be disqualified.

B. Referees

Three referees will be appointed by Rangemaster. Referees must be competitors in the match they are refereeing. Referee can not be scorer. Referees will decide problems in crossfire, protests in scoring, eligibility of guns and rests, any other protests that may arise or any rule violations that may occur. Referees at anytime before commence fire and after cease fire may inspect and test gun velocity, or inspect rest to determine if shooter is in compliance with rules. Referees must test the power of first, second, and third place rifles for Match class if the match is a state, regional or national match. Referees will decide outcome of any protests lodged by competitors before, during, and after match. An alternate referee should be named in case one of the three referees has filed a protest or is involved in a protest. Note in the event there is not enough competitors to meet the 3 referee/scorer requirements such as in a two competitor event, the Range master should use good common sense and appoint as many different officials as possible. If a protest arises that cannot be determined by a majority vote of the referees then the rangemaster will be required to send the target in question to AirGun Benchrest for a determination. The intent of this rule is to ensure that are targets are fairly and equally scored for all competitors.

C. Scorer

Appointed by the Rangemaster to score targets. Scorer must have a .22 cal Rig plug and a .177 cal AirGun Benchrest plug. Rangemaster can also be scorer. All officials can compete in matches. Scorer cannot be a referee, unless there is not enough competitors to meet the requirements above.

WORLD RECORD TARGET

Only official AirGun Benchrest targets sent from sanctioned matches will be considered. If a competitor has shot a potential World Record target, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the Rangemaster. The competitor is not to remove the target, or the target will be disqualified. After notification by a competitor of a potential World Record target, it is the Rangemaster's responsibility to remove the target, sign it, and direct the three referees to sign it. It is the responsibility of the Rangemaster to certified mail the target, along with the match results, to AirGun Benchrest within 30 days of match date. If this procedure is not followed, target will not be submitted to the Scoring Committee. If any holes are bigger than a .22 plug, lowest score will be awarded. If more than two bullet holes are larger than a .22 plug, target will be disqualified. All scores shot on the same day and verified to exceed the current record will be recognized as records. The highest score will be the record "holder" and any others will receive recognition for breaking the record and all amenities. For the purpose of this rule the term "day" is defined as midnight to midnight Eastern Time.

PROTESTS

Any shooter may protest his target, someone else's target, questionable guns or rests or other problems that may arise. Referees will decide outcome and their decision is final. The only protest a club can charge a fee for is a scoring protest.

If any person involved in a match believes a protest was resolved inappropriately because of a misinterpretation of the rules or an adequate rule does not exist, a formal request may be submitted to the AirGun Benchrest for the purpose of clarifying the rules. Enough information should accompany the request to support an adequate understanding of what happened. The AirGun Benchrest will not overturn a decision by the referees but the possibility shall remain open to formulate an agreeable resolution beyond that of rule clarification. Any resolution will be the result of recommendation by a committee of Rangemasters not involved in the event and the committee will be comprised of no less than three Rangemasters.

REGISTRATION

Match to start at predetermined time. Registration will close at the end of the first relay of the first Class. No one will be allowed to sign up after the end of the first relay of the first Class. Registration forms are to be filled out and signed by each competitor.

A. Benches

Drawing for bench and relay is required at every sanctioned match.

Multi-day or multi-match events are allowed the option to draw bench and relay for each match or draw bench and relay once. If a single drawing is implemented, benches shall be rotated after each class such that a competitor will traverse the entire firing line over the course of the event as far as mathematically possible. An example of one drawing would be a 2 day state championship event at a range with 20 benches. The competitors would draw once and rotate 3 benches each class over both days. (20 benches divided by 6 targets = 3 with an unusable remainder.)

1 Bench Sharing

A Rangemaster is not required to run an extra relay to accommodate bench sharing except at State and Regional championship matches where two relays are required if requested. Also note that a rangemaster is not required to run two relays solely for the purpose of allowing a competitor to shoot in another class. If the Rangemaster otherwise allows bench sharing, no more than two competitors can share the same bench. Competitors must notify Rangemaster at sign up if they wish to share the same bench, and designate which competitor will draw for bench and relay. The bench and relay drawn will be assigned to the designated competitor. The second competitor will be assigned the same bench on the next available relay. If the same bench is occupied, the designated competitor may re-draw for bench and relay until he/she draws a bench and relay that will accommodate bench sharing if that is possible. Requests to share benches shall be made prior to the drawing and can not be rescinded after the drawing has occurred.

2 Equipment Sharing

A Rangemaster is not required to run an extra relay to accommodate equipment sharing except at State and Regional championship matches where two relays are required if requested. If the Rangemaster otherwise allows equipment sharing, no more than two competitors can share the same equipment. Competitors must notify Rangemaster at sign up if they wish to share equipment, and designate which competitor will draw for bench and relay. The bench and relay drawn will be assigned to the designated competitor. The other

competitor will draw until he/she draws a different relay. Requests to share equipment shall be made prior to the drawing and can not be rescinded after the drawing has occurred.

Empty Benches

No one will occupy any unused bench at a match for any reason.

Chronographs and scales

Chronographs and scales must be available to all shooters to determine Match class power in a state, regional or national match.

SPORTSMANSHIP

There will be no loud talk or noise on or around the firing line during a match. Rangemaster or referees may disqualify any person who disregards this rule.

SAFETY

Rifles must be equipped with trigger guards. All rifles must have bolts removed or actions open at all times when not engaged in active competition. Rifles are NEVER to be on the bench until the Rangemaster calls the relay to the line after determining that the range is secure. When target crew is down range, NO RIFLES will be allowed on benches. Loss of sanctioning will result if this procedure is not followed.

AirGun Benchrest NEWS and information

Dates and places matches will be held, as well as results of matches, are published on the www.AirGunBenchrest.com website.

Section II - Match Procedures

1. Rangemasters must post AirGun Benchrest rules at all sanctioned matches. Match must start at predetermined time.
2. Rangemaster must appoint three referees before match begins. Referees must be competitors in the match they are refereeing. Note that this requirement can be modified by the rangemaster in the case of events with fewer than 5 competitors. An alternate referee should be named in case one of the three referees has filed a protest or is involved in a protest. In order to rule on any protests filed by competitors and check rifles, referees must be present until match is declared official by Rangemaster.. Note : If only two competitors are at a match and agreement can not be reached as to the correct score of a target, then all the targets from the match shall be sent to Airgun benchrest for scoring.
3. Registration must close at the end of the first relay of the first Class.
4. A regular match contests at least three targets but not more than six targets for a one day event (Two day events can contest up to eight targets).
5. After the targets are hung and the Rangemaster determines that the range is safe, the Rangemaster then calls the first relay of the first Class to the line. Competitors in that relay will approach the line and place their rifles in their rests. Rangemaster will then ask "Is the firing line ready?". If ready, Rangemaster will then give the command "Replace bolts, commence fire". If for any reason firing must be stopped, Rangemaster will call out "Cease fire, unload rifles, remove rifles and step back from bench". When problem is corrected, Rangemaster will add three (3) minutes to the remaining time and give the command to resume fire. When time has expired, Rangemaster will call out "Cease fire, remove bolts, and remove rifles from bench". If someone fires after cease fire is called, that shooter can be disqualified. Rangemaster should call out 15 minute, 5 minute, 1 minute, and 30 second warnings. After Rangemaster determines the range is safe, target crew is to remove shot targets and hand targets to scorer. Rangemaster can also be scorer.
6. If possible, scorer should start scoring targets as soon as the first relay is over. After targets are scored, either scorer or Rangemaster must hang up all targets in full view of competitors.

7. A competitor can protest the scoring on his target or the scoring on another competitor's target. A \$2 protest fee per bullet hole is mandatory at all State and Regional Championships. The protest fee is optional at regular matches. The protest fee is to be returned to the competitor if the referees rule in the protester's favor.

8. After targets from the last relay of the last Class are hung, a minimum of ten minutes must be allowed for scoring protests for the last relay's targets. Rangemaster will then declare protest period over.

9. Only referees can remove and re-score protested targets. Targets must not be removed or handled by competitors until match results are declared official. If a competitor removes his target, the referees are to disqualify the competitor. The referees are to make rulings on scoring protests with absolutely no input from the Rangemaster, Scorer, or any other competitor. The ONLY input referees are to use when ruling on scoring protests, or any other protests, is the AirGun Benchrest Rule Book. The referees are to retreat to a separate area to re-score protested targets. Neither the Rangemaster, Scorer, nor any other competitors are to be in that area. If a competitor does not comply with the referees instructions to leave the area when requested to do so, the competitor will be disqualified by the referees. Protested targets must be re-scored by referees on a flat surface. A referee must step out if the target to be re-scored involves a scoring protest lodged by that referee, or the target to be re-scored is the referee's target. If a referee must step out, the referees are to call in the alternate to re-score that target. If an alternate was not named before the match began, the referees are to appoint an alternate. If another referee must step out on the same target, the referees will appoint another alternate. The referees decisions on scoring protests, any other protests and, if necessary, the appointment of alternates, will be FINAL.

10. When all scoring protests have been re-scored by the referees, the targets are to be handed to the Rangemaster or statistician. After the Rangemaster or statistician recalculates the results, the Rangemaster is to call for the chronographing of rifles. The referees must test first, second, and third place rifles for Match class if the match is a state, regional or National match. After winning rifles are tested, the Rangemaster will announce third, second, and first place finishers for each class contested. It is the competitor's responsibility to notify the Rangemaster of mistakes in addition or recording of scores. After the Rangemaster announces the third, second, and first place finishers for each class contested, competitors will have two minutes to notify the Rangemaster of mistakes. If a competitor notifies the Rangemaster that a mistake was made, the Rangemaster is to correct it. The Rangemaster is to once again announce third, second, and first place finishers for each class contested. If the Rangemaster is not notified within two minutes of any additional mistakes, the Rangemaster is to declare the match results official. If a winning competitor leaves the match early, it is the competitor's responsibility to have his rifles tested and verified as legal by a referee before leaving. Failure to do so will result in disqualification and will be listed as a DNQ (did not qualify).

11. If a competitor has shot a potential World Record target, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the Rangemaster. The competitor is not to remove the target, or the target will be disqualified. After notification by a competitor of a potential World Record target, it is the Rangemaster's responsibility to remove the target, sign it, and direct the three referees to sign it. It is the responsibility of the Rangemaster to certify mail the target, along with the match results, to AirGun Benchrest within 30 days of match date. If this procedure is not followed, target will not be submitted to the Scoring Committee.

Section III - Championships

For the 2008 Shooting season there will not be any regional championships contested. Future championships at the regional level will be determined by AirGun Benchrest when the level of participation in a region warrants such competition. For 2008: Club, State and National Championships will be contested. The host club for the 2008 National AirGun Benchrest Championship will be the Blackbelt Benchrest Club located near Demopolis, Alabama. Rangemaster: Ronald Lewis, ronaldk.lewis@cemex.com

STATE-REGIONAL-NATIONALS

Sanctioning of State and Regional Championships, and the Nationals will be determined by AirGun

Benchrest. Hall of Fame points will only be awarded for State and Regional Championships that have a minimum of ten shooters competing.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

An application must be filled out to hold a Championship match. A photograph of the bench area must be submitted with the application. Registration Fees: State and Regionals and Nationals: \$1.50 per shooter per target. At State and Regional Championships, a trophy or plaque must be awarded for first, second and third place for the contested classes: Springer, Match and Unlimited.

The winner at each sanctioned local club will be awarded the title "Club Scoreline Aggregate Champion". Perfect score is 3000-300x's. This is based on the shooter's best 12 targets at the club.

Unlimited Score Line: The total of the highest 12 individual targets shot at any "Unlimited" match between January 1 through December 20. Tiebreaker: The highest single score shot. If a tie still exists, the next highest score will be used and so on.

Match Score Line: The total of the highest 12 individual targets shot at any "Match" match between January 1 through December 20. Tiebreaker: The highest single score shot. If a tie still exists, the next highest score will be used and so on.

Springer Score Line: The total of the highest 12 individual targets shot at any "Springer" match from January 1 through December 20. Tiebreaker: The highest single score shot. If a tie still exists, the next highest score will be used and so on.

The National "Shooter of the Year" will be the Club Score line Champion with the highest agg score. In case of a tie, the results of the first match will be checked. Highest score shot in the first match will win. If a tie still exists, the results of the second match, and then the results of the third match will be checked. If tie still exists, the results of the next match will be checked and so on.

The three National "Class Grand Champions" will be the three Club Class Champions with the highest total score in each class. In case of a tie, the highest single score shot will determine the winner. If a tie still exists, the next highest score will be used and so on.

REGIONS

Northeast

Maine
New Hampshire
Vermont
Massachusetts
Connecticut
New York
New Jersey
Rhode Island
Delaware
Maryland
Pennsylvania
West Virginia
Ohio

North Central

Southwest

California
Utah
Colorado
Nevada
Arizona
New Mexico

Mid-Atlantic

Virginia
Kentucky
Tennessee
North Carolina
South Carolina

Gulf Coast

Florida
Georgia
Alabama
Mississippi
Louisiana

Northwest

Washington
Oregon
Montana
Idaho
South Dakota
North Dakota
Wyoming
Nebraska

Minnesota
Iowa
Indiana
Wisconsin
Illinois
Michigan

South Central

Kansas
Arkansas
Texas
Missouri
Oklahoma

Hall of Fame: Hall of Fame points will be awarded for Club titles, the National Unlimited Score Line title, the National Match Score Line Champion, the national Springer Scoreline Champion the Gold 12, The Silver 6, The Bronze 6, State and Regional Championships and the setting of world record targets.

End of Rules

If you have any questions concerning the rules, match procedures or the general conduct of these competitions don't hesitate to call or email and get clarification from AirGun Benchrest. I can be reached via email ronaldk.lewis@cemex.com or phone 334-287-3527 Monday through Friday 0630 to 1600.