

SOUTH AFRICAN HUNTING RIFLE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the competition is to test the following elements of a marksman's ability: judging distances, external ballistics (bullet performance), judging wind strength, ability to shoot from various positions and also shooting under pressure (against time). The competition must be structured so that all the above elements are tested during the competition. It is a shooting contest of variable and non-standard format that examines practical marksmanship as it occurs in the hunting field.

The competition must be arranged in such a way that specialist rifles such as Single Shot Benchrest or Silhouette rifles do not enjoy an advantage over ordinary hunting rifles. This sport is designed exclusively as a test for hunters with hunting rifles. The object is to simulate field hunting conditions in order to test the ability of the hunter and not only the accuracy of the rifle.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

The Rules below shall apply for centre fire and rim fire hunting rifle shooting

1. GENERAL RULES

1.1. The organizing committee shall, before commencement of the competition, appoint a panel of at least 3 experienced members to act as arbitrators (Dispute Committee) for any competition in case of any dispute regarding interpretation of these rules, or any other matter not covered by the rules.

1.2. Every competitor shall sign an indemnity before the commencement of any competition.

1.3. A briefing will be held where competitors are briefed of the day's proceedings by the match organizers before the commencement of the match.

1.4. All National and Provincial competitions shall consist of at least 30 shots divided over 6 events, 5 shots per event. The maximum point per shot shall not exceed 30 points. International Competitions will be conducted at conditions and a standard of at least that of the SA National Championships, but may be expanded according to conditions determined by an International Governing Body.

1.5. Competitors may complete the course in any order.

1.6. No competitor shall be allowed to compete if under the influence of alcohol or drugs or found consuming alcohol or drugs during a match. Depending on the severity of the offence, such a competitor may be suspended for a period of up to twelve months. Match fees for that competition will be forfeited.

1.7. A 100m (where possible 200m) sight in range, manned by a range officer, must be available for at least the first 2 hours of the competition.

1.8. In case of interpretation of these rules, the English version will be applied.

1.9. With the exclusion of Penkoppe, all **fully paid-up** members of the South African Hunting Rifle Shooting Association (SAHRSA) may qualify for the National Team. Non-members may enter any Provincial or National competition, at a fee equal to the entry fee for members, plus an additional amount.

1.10. The score achieved by a member in any competition, while his/her membership fees are in arrears at the time of said competition, will NOT be counted towards of his/her annual ranking and will not be considered during the calculation of the Top 50.

1.11. The Top 50 is determined by ranking members according to their best three results achieved at any provincial competitions during an association year. Penkoppe will not be eligible for inclusion into the Top 50 as their shooting positions differ (may include shooting rests) from that of the rest of the competitors.

1.12. The SA Team is determined by the following four results in equal weight: The average of the best three provincial competitions for the year as in 1.10 above, the first leg of the Top 50 trials, the second leg of the Top 50 trials and the SA National Championships of the next association year.

1.13. Competitors will not be allowed to start shooting an event after the closing time set by the organizers for the day.

Range officers or other officials may be excluded from this rule. It is the responsibility of the competitor to provide for any delays and to make sure he/she completes all events in time. The fact that an entry was accepted does not mean the competitor may continue with events after the closing time. The closing time may be extended by the organizers for unexpected delays experienced during the competition.

1.14. Where an ambulance is not on standby, the following minimum arrangements should be made: There must be a dedicated vehicle, identified for this purpose, ready to transport the injured to the nearest medical facility. The route to this facility and the contact details thereof as well as a first aid kit must be available in this vehicle.

1.15. When the organizers of any provincial or national competition publish a closing date for entries, no late entries will be accepted.

1.16. Only centre-fire hunting rifles of any calibre may be used provided that the ammunition/calibre combination does not damage the targets and/or equipment. No armour piercing or tracer ammunition will be allowed.

1.17. All rules of the SA Hunting Rifle Shooting Association applies to Penkoppe with the exception that they may be assisted and coached by one adult, between shots, without disturbing other competitors. However, no-one other than the Penkop may touch or support the rifle or the provided support/rest when the shot is fired, nor may the body of the Penkop be supported/stabilised by another person. **Only rests/supports supplied by the organisers may be used; no private rests/supports are allowed.**

1.18. The SA Hunting Rifle Shooting Association is committed to drug free sport and competitions. On entry of any SAHRSA competitions any individual declares himself/herself committed to the stipulations and regulations of **SA Institute for Drug-Free Sport** and willing to undergo random drug testing by the **SA Institute for Drug-Free Sport** without any announced prior warning.

2. TARGETS AND SCORING

2.1. If a competitor fires at the wrong target, a nil score will be entered for that competitor for the number of wrongly placed shots, even if his/her shots can be identified on any other target.

2.2. If a competitor fires more than the stipulated number of shots for a specific item, the highest valued shots will be deducted until the correct number of shots remains.

2.3. If there are additional shots on a target not fired by that competitor, the following will apply: If the caliber can be distinguished, the competitor is scored on his own caliber only. If not, the range officer will apply his discretion to score the target fairly, taking all circumstances of that situation into consideration. If that is not possible, the range officer will allow the competitor to repeat that event. Competitors must provide for this by having extra ammunition available.

2.4. If found to practice misconduct in any way, including firing additional shots on his/her own target or on any other target to either benefit or to sabotage or using or participate in using range-finding equipment for the purpose of enhancing anyone's performance in the competition, such competitor will be disqualified. (Also see Rule 5.11)

2.5. No competitor may touch or advance to his/her target at a distance of closer than two meters before the target is scored or the score signed off by the competitor.

2.6. All shots fired before the command to commence shooting or after the command to stop shooting to paper targets, will be penalized by 30 points for each shot. If any competitor fires before the command to commence shooting or after the command to stop shooting to a steel plate, a miss will be scored to that plate.

2.7. If a bullet hole on a particular target touches a scoring line, the **higher** score will count. Touch means that there is no visible space between the caliber size hole and the line. **THE EXCEPTION:** If a bullet hole touches a scoring line between an area indicating a miss (zero score outside the target area) and a negative score area, the negative (**lower**) will count.

For example: The line between a positive score (30, 20, 15, etc) and a negative score (-15, -5, etc) scores the positive score (30, 20, 15, etc), but the line between Zero (0) and a negative score (-15, -5, etc) scores the negative score (-15, -5, etc), like the line on edge of target.

2.8. If doubt exists if the bullet hole touches a scoring line, **the range officer** must insert a caliber sized projectile (like the bullet) into the hole without distorting the edges to determine if it touches the scoreline.

- 2.9. After signature of the scorecard, no adjustments to the score will be allowed.
- 2.10. The range officer's judgement is final, except for 2.11.
- 2.11. In the event that a competitor wishes to appeal the judgement of the range officer, the appeal in writing must be accompanied by a deposit of R100, which amount is refundable if the appeal is upheld.
- 2.12. The targets used in competitions will, as far as possible, be full colour prints of South African Wild Game. Steel plates with a diameter of 200mm may also be used.
- 2.13. The maximum shooting distance will be approximately 350 meters. The maximum shooting distance from a freestanding position will be 100 meters. The minimum shooting range at steel plates for centre fire rifles will be 150 meters. To maintain standards the steel plates will be placed as follow: half of the total number of steel plates used at a competition should be closer than 250 meters and 2 should be further than 300 meters. One paper target range must be about 250 metres long. **Range finding equipment may not be used to range these targets; these distances will be judged by the organizers and are an approximate.**
- 2.14. Examples of the paper targets used for that specific range must be displayed at the shooting stations.
- 2.15. Steel plates must be visible to the naked eye, clearly marked and numbered for easy identification. Since some of our members are colour-blind, the marking of the steel plates must be a shade of white/beige and at least A3 sized, like a black number on a white A3 paper, attached to the frame supporting the steel plate or standing next to it.
- 2.16. The full 30 score area on the head of any paper target will count as a V-Bull and will be scored as 30.1 on the scoresheet. In the event of competitors having the same total score inclusive of V-bulls after completion of the competition, the winner of the competition will be the one who achieved the highest score on range 1. If their range 1 scores are equal, the same process will be repeated for ranges 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 until a distinction can be made.

3. SAFETY

- 3.1. Rifle bolts will always be in the OPEN position, including when bagged. If the rifle does not fit into the container with an open bolt, the bolt must be removed. Live ammunition may only be placed in the rifle or magazine (when the magazine is fitted to the rifle) on the command of the range officer.
- 3.2. Any competitor or spectator exhibiting behaviour, which in the discretion of the range officer or competition organisers is considered unsafe, may be disqualified or requested to leave the shooting range immediately.
- 3.3. Competitors are not allowed to aim or load any rifles before the range officer has given the order to do so.
- 3.4. After starting an event, the bolt of the rifle may not be closed before or while going into the shooting position. The bolt may be pushed forward to prevent the rounds from falling out, but must not be pushed down and closed before the body is settled into the shooting position.
- 3.5. Hearing protection is mandatory and eye protection is recommended at all shooting competitions.
- 3.6. Any competitor that has/caused an accidental discharge of a shot due to negligence, faulty equipment, etc may immediately be disqualified and might be asked to leave the competition premises immediately.
- 3.7. When shooting from the sitting position on basically level ground, the competitor will not be permitted to let one or both of his/her elbows touch the ground.
- 3.8. Competitor are NOT allowed to take up the prescribed shooting position before the official start command has not been given for any event. **Taking up the shooting position must be done in the time allowed for the event. PLEASE NOTE THAT SAFETY WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED AND ANY COMPETITOR TAKING UP THE SHOOTING POSITION WITH A LOADED RIFLE OR CLOSED BOLT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

4. EQUIPMENT

- 4.1. If a breakage or malfunction occurs during any event, the competitor will not be allowed to re-shoot that event at a later stage and if a competitor's rifle becomes unserviceable (this must be verified by the organizers) he/she

may shoot the remainder of the events with a different approved rifle.

4.2. With the exception of rule 4.1.; the competition must be completed with one rifle.

4.3. Any person, who is not the registered owner of the firearm he/she is using, will be required to be accompanied by the registered owner.

4.4. Gloves permitted are only to provide protection from rocks, sticks, etc and may not strengthening the wrists or provide artificial support in any way.

4.5. Elbow protectors and shooting or hunting jackets will be allowed but no clothing with artificial support may be used. Elbow protectors will be of the type that fits around the elbows only, normally made of leather, attached to the elbow with two straps and offers absolutely no artificial support. A hunting jacket will be a jacket similar to a bush jacket as used by the SA Military made of normal material (cloth), like denim, "browns" or cotton camo. A non-supportive protective patch, like leather, over the elbows and shoulder are allowed. No tensioning, stiffening or strengthening devices like straps, zips, special elastic bands, hooks, excessive padding or any other devices that might give any artificial support, in any way, are allowed. The purpose of the jacket is NOT TO SUPPORT THE SHOOTER but to protect the shooter against the cold, dirt, etc on the shooting point.

4.6. Rifle slings must be attached to the rifle in front and behind the action. Slings may be adjustable.

4.7. No Bi-pods or any other attachments for steadying the rifle may be used

4.8. The triggering mechanism of any rifle should be absolutely safe and will be subjected to a safety check by the range officer, if necessary. In the event of it being unsafe, the competitor will not be allowed to continue with that rifle. Rule 4.1. will then apply.

4.9. No Semi-Automatic or Pump-Action rifles are allowed.

4.10. There is no limitation to the magnification of telescopes.

4.11. No electronic or mechanical distance ranging or wind velocity measuring equipment are allowed on the competition premises, the sight in range or in a vehicle of any competitor or visitor, except by organizers of the day, by prior arrangement, for official use after completion of the competition.

Infringement of rule 4.11 may lead to immediate disqualification.

5. AT FIRING POINTS

5.1. Firing points for each event must be clearly demarcated.

5.2. The range officer at every shooting point will brief each competitor thoroughly before commencing with the event. No competitor will be allowed to repeat an event due to the fact that he/she did not clearly understand what was required.

5.3. The range officer will call out the names of the competitors who are next in line to shoot and they will prepare themselves to be ready by the time the competitor preceding them has completed the event.

5.4. The standard range officer command will be:

- a) **Are you ready** (competitor must indicate readiness to start) (competitors may enter into shooting position on RO's command – see rule 3.8)
- b) **Stand by**
- c) 3 to 5 seconds later the range officer will give the **START** signal.
- d) 120 Seconds will be allowed for steel plate ranges and 90 seconds for long range target ranges (excluding short, rapid fire target ranges).
- e) During any event the time remaining will be read out to the competitor where applicable as: 90 seconds remaining, 60 seconds remaining, 30 seconds remaining and 15 seconds remaining. Organizers are urged to make use of the association's RO Commands available on CD or electronic media.

5.5. No coaching will be allowed while a competitor is busy shooting an event.

5.6. No disturbing comments, remarks or noise are allowed at any shooting point while a competitor is shooting.

5.7. Where shooting is to commence over stones or something that may damage the competitor's equipment, a thin,

blanket type for protection may be supplied by the organizers. This supplied coverage must stay on the shooting point for the duration of the competition and is the only coverage that is allowed. Where no coverage is supplied the competitor may remove his/her hat or cap and use it as protection.

5.8. Targets may not be scrutinized through any optical devices while not shooting. This includes telescopes on rifles and binoculars.

5.9. No competitor or visitor may advance past the shooting point to the targets before he/she have competed and finished shooting that specific range and only for the purpose of scoring. Where a competitor is accompanying a junior or inexperienced competitor, he/she may only advance past the shooting point once they have finished shooting that specific range themselves.

5.10. Muzzle brakes are allowed but competitors with muzzle brakes on their rifles will shoot together and/or in a different relay than competitors without muzzle brakes in an effort not to disturb them during their participation in an event.

5.11. Only five (5) shots may be fired per range during an event. No foulers and/or any additional shots, for whatever reason, may be fired. **Infringement of this rule may lead to immediate disqualification from the event or the competition.** (Also see Rule 2.4)

5.12. **Basic Shooting Positions: 1 - Prone (lying down), 2 - Sitting, 3 - Kneeling, 4 - Standing** (in increasing difficulty). At any event, the competitor must comply and shoot in the basic shooting position/s as determined by the organizer for that specific event. Although the basic position may be prescribed, variations to basic shooting positions shall not be prescribed by organisers, but must be dictated by the environment, such as vegetation or the introduction of e.g. hay bales that will require shooters to take up a more elevated version of the basic position.

5.13. Shooters are allowed to take up a less a less stable basic shooting position (one of a higher number - **1 - Prone (lying down), 2 - Sitting, 3 - Kneeling, 4 - Standing**) than the recommended/prescribed one if they prefer to do so, but will not be entitled to use more time or different supports/aids than offered.

5.14. **Rests, Supports and Shooting Aids** – Where the organizer supply any aid (support, rests, shooting sticks, tri-pods, bi-pods, etc.) the organizer will not prescribe a specific way the aid must be used and it will be at the discretion of the competitor how to use the provided aid safely. In the interest of safety the Range Officer have the right to intervene should safety be compromised.

5.15 **If the competitor feels that the rest/support/shooting aid supplied does not serve as an advantage/improvement, the competitor may, at his/her own discretion choose not to use it, however this does not entitle the competitor to use an alternative rest or shooting aid, other than that supplied, and the competitor will then complete the event in the basic shooting position prescribed without any rest/shooting aids.**

6. CLASSIFICATION

6.1. Competitors can compete in the following classes:

- a) **Open Class.** Open to all competitors, members as well as non-members. (Penkoppe might be excluded due to different shooting positions as determined by the organiser and announced before commencement of the competition)
- b) **Performance Classes.** (Determined by previous performance as recorded on National Ranking List)
For members only.
 - i. Bronze (below 60% or first time entrants)
 - ii. Silver (60% to below 80%)
 - iii. Gold (80% and above)
- c) **Demographic Classes.** For members and non-members. May enter in only one of the following:
 - i. Penkoppe (13 years and younger on the day of the competition)
 - ii. Juniors (14 to 16 years old on the day of the competition)
 - iii. Ladies
 - iv. Seniors (50 years up to 59 years old)
 - v. Veterans (60 years and older)

All competitors qualify to be overall winners on a specific day and for overall ranking. Members may enter into a), b) and c) simultaneously while non-members may enter into a) and c) only.

6.2. Awards per class will depend on the number of entries for that class.

6.3. New members competing in their first competition will compete as Bronze shooters.

6.4. An annual Platinum award will be received by all members who achieve 3 or more scores of at least 800/900 for any Provincial or National competitions, excluding the Top 50 trials, during any association year.