

# **SOUTH WEST ENGLAND FIELD TARGET ASSOCIATION**

## **Field Target Class**

### **(Regional Rules & Guidance Notes)**

RATIFIED 18th October 2002

#### 1) AIRGUNS

Open to any air rifle that abides by the relevant categories as defined within the current legislation. It is the responsibility of the individual owner to ensure that their rifle complies with statutory limit of 12ft. lbs.. Event organisers reserve the right to test guns at any time to ensure that they are within the current power limit.

There will be no limitation on the design of the rifle. The rifle may be fitted with a fully adjustable stock or incorporate such home made or other after market modifications as deemed suitable by its owner. A single rifle sling, separate or otherwise, and/or a butt hook are permitted as a means of steadying the aim. The use of bipods (or other devices that touch the ground) for supporting the rifle while taking a shot is not allowed. However they may be used for resting the rifle (with the muzzle facing in a safe direction) when not in use.

Where multi-shot magazine fed rifles are used, the magazine should be removed from the rifle between lanes. Rifles that are fitted with non-detachable magazines should only be loaded with sufficient pellets to complete a lane.

#### 2) SIGHTS

Any form of sighting system may be used. The use of a laser attached to a telescopic sight to give a low cost range finding system is permitted.

The use of separate electronic laser range finders is not allowed.

#### 3) AMMUNITION

Any design of pellet that is completely made of lead or lead alloy may be used. Pellets made from other materials may be used provided that there is no risk from rebounds, ricochets or fragments returning to the firing line. Due to the risk from rebounds steel ammunition must not be used.

#### 4) RANGE OFFICERS

Event organisers (clubs or region) are expected to provide range officers (R.O.s) to ensure safe and efficient running of the event. The R.Os should be clearly identifiable by the use of armbands or high-visibility vests.

In the event of target related problems or any other down range problem the R.O. will signal a cease-fire by a single blast on a whistle, horn or similar audible device. An R.O. may request assistance from any person on the firing line to ensure rapid clearance of any problem encountered. When the problem has been rectified, the firing line will be reactivated by a double blast of a whistle or other audible device.

R.O.s shall ensure that rules are observed and shall have absolute discretion in attending to any matter not specifically encompassed by these rules (or the guidance notes).

## 5) MARSHALLING

The normal marshalling system shall be the □buddy□ type where partners score each other. Normally this will be based on pairs, however should circumstances dictate, groups of three can be allowed.

It is expected that competitors will find different partners from match to match. Partners shall be from different clubs. An exception will be allowed where a junior is partnered with a parent or guardian to fulfil the legal requirement of supervision by an appropriate person of over 21 years of age. Supervision of shooters who are under 17 years of age will be in accordance with current legal requirements (a shooting partner in competition does not necessarily constitute supervision of a shooter under 14 years of age).

## 6) TARGETS

Reactive targets shall be used. In this context the term reactive means that following a successful hit the target will give some visible indication, whereby a change in target profile, movement of the target or fall of the target occurs. The trip plate shall be of a contrasting colour to the faceplate (course builders should allow for shooters affected by colour blindness or other visual impairment).

Standard apertures shall not exceed 1¾ inches (45 mm) in diameter. The minimum distance for any target (for safety reasons) shall be 8 yards (7.3 metres). The maximum target distance shall be 55 yards (50.3 metres).

The course may also contain targets with reduced diameter apertures, provided that the total number of such targets does not exceed 40% of the total number of targets in the course with the following limitations:

- a. Apertures of not less than 1 inch (25mm) may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of 45 yards (41 metres).
- b. Apertures of not less than 1/2 inch (13.5 mm) may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of 25 yards (18.3 metres).
- c. Apertures of 1 inch (25mm) may be used on positional targets to a maximum distance of 20 yards (18.3 metres).

Note: Course designers should bear in mind prevalent conditions when using small aperture targets. A maximum of 40% of reduced targets, should allow effective use of most areas of land where the number of distant targets is restricted due to lack of space, while allowing good usage of close terrain without making courses too easy or placing too much emphasis on the need for high price range finding scopes.

## 7) COURSE OF FIRE

A full course of fire shall consist of not less than 25 targets. A full course of fire must be completed for a score to be deemed valid accepting any circumstance under Rule 12 (Leaving the firing line).

The number of standing shots in any one course is not to exceed 10% of the total number of targets in that course.

The number of kneeling shots in any one course is not to exceed 10% of the total number of shots in that course.

All shots must be taken from within a designated firing area.

All targets shall be clearly numbered and must be shot in numerical order.

In the event of a target being shot out of sequence, the competitor shall forfeit the omitted target, being credited with a miss and resume shooting at the target immediately following it.

Out of sequence shots involving targets on another lane require the above procedure to be followed. In this case the target shot out of sequence shall be shot as normal upon reaching that lane.

Shots taken at any one lane should not exceed the total number of targets in that lane with the following exceptions:

1. Rule 8. Paragraph 2 (rectification of faulty targets).
2. Un-sighted shots with the knowledge of partner or R.Os.
3. In a shoot-off situation.

## 8) SCORING

Scoring shall be on the basis of one point for each hit and zero for a miss. A hit shall be awarded when the target reacts. If there is no visible reaction from the target a miss shall be scored. Hits shall be marked with an X and misses marked with a 0.

Any challenge to the above must be made prior to leaving the target. Any dispute not resolved at that time shall be referred to the R.O., whose decision shall be final. Any target found to be defective shall be repaired / replaced and re-shot. However, if upon examination, the trip plate has moved to a point where it has to be reset, the target shall be scored as a hit.

In the event of tied scores a count back of designated eliminator targets shall decide the final placings. In the event that scores remain tied a shoot-off may be used to decide positions. Shoot off targets to be decided by the event organiser.

## 9) SHOOTING

Any shooting position is allowed, but some targets or lanes may be designated as standing, or kneeling. The prone position is not considered as a designated position (this does not prevent a shooter from using the prone position on freestyle targets).

A competitor shall make it known to the event organiser prior to shooting if they are unable, for whatever reason, to comply with a particular shooting position and obtain permission to use an alternative position provided no unfair advantage is gained.

Any type of clothing, glove, or footwear is allowed provided it is not a hazard to the shooter or other competitors.

The use of a seat is allowed; the maximum height for any form of seating is 4 inches (100 mm), including any backrest. The seat may be used as an aid to sitting or kneeling shots. Variations on this rule may be applied at the discretion of the event organiser in recognition of a competitor's disability, providing that no unfair advantage is gained.

Definitions of shooting positions:

**Freestyle:** This can encompass the sitting and prone positions. No part of the rifle or any attachment may touch the ground or artificial / natural features for support. In the prone position the supporting arm forward of the elbow may not touch the ground or any object for support. Use of a sling is deemed acceptable.

**Kneeling:** There shall be only 3 points of contact with the ground (2 feet and 1 knee). The fore-end of the rifle must be supported by the weak hand, which in turn may not rest directly on the knee. A legal seat may be used to support the rear foot or ankle, or to keep the knee clean provided that the foot has contact with the ground

**Standing:** Any shot taken in a standing position without the aid of any support other than a sling if the competitor wishes to use one.

## 10) TIMING

In the event of a competitor delaying excessively, the R.O. may time the lane, with the time starting when the eye is put to the sight. The time will be continuous, with the number of minutes allowed equating to the number of targets in that lane.

If the total time in minutes exceeds the number of targets on a lane, the competitor will forfeit any successful hit obtained after the expiry of the allotted time.

## 11) PENALTIES

The penalty for un-safe practice or any form of cheating is disqualification, with the club or regional association reserving the right to take further action.

## 12) LEAVING THE FIRING LINE

The competitors may leave the firing line under the following conditions

1. Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case his score to that point will be presented as a valid result.
2. To affect a repair to equipment which has been rendered unsafe or incapable of firing a shot by whatever means. This does not include zero shift of optical equipment or poorly zeroed systems, an exception to this being should a rifle take a fall or severe knock on the firing line (e.g. by failure of sling or similar).
3. Any other occurrence, which is deemed valid by the R.O.s (e.g. extreme weather conditions that may cause a safety hazard).

Note: In item 2, the R.O. can allow a competitor to replace the faulty part or equipment, but no visit to the zeroing range is allowed, unless permission is given by the R.O.

## 13) RANGE CONDUCT

In the event of a "cease fire" order, guns will be discharged into the ground, the muzzles dropped and actions left in the open position. Targets must not be sighted during a cease-fire. Guns will only be sighted, shouldered or discharged over a recognised firing line. Guns will always be kept un-loaded and un-cocked when not in use.

## 14) CLASSES

Classes of entry per the grading system as operated by the national association may be used. Shooters may elect to shoot in a higher grade. This will not affect their listed grading. Other classes may be used at the discretion of the organiser, details of which to be circulated in advance of the event.

## 15) INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES

The possession and/or consumption of any intoxicating substance (alcohol or illegal drugs) on the firing line is strictly prohibited. A competitor will not be permitted to handle or use a gun if the organiser discovers that they have consumed alcohol or illegal drugs prior to shooting, and will be asked to leave the club premises. The club and/or region reserve the right to pursue further action following any such misconduct.

## 16) INSURANCE AND RULES

Event organisers shall display a current and valid Certificate of Insurance and also a current copy of the regional rules

## 17) SCORES

No scores gained from competitions shot in the above format will be sent to the national grading secretary for grading purposes.