



Match Rules (subject to adjustments as matches progress):

1.1 Safety

Safe conduct of all matches and associated activities shall be foremost. Any person or member who is conducting themselves in an unsafe manner shall be dismissed from the activity.

- a) No smoking on or around the firing line.
- b) No open: Powder or Flammable containers.
- c) Snapping of percussion caps must be administered in front of the firing line.
- d) In the course of discharging the rifle, the ML cap shall not be placed on the nipple and/or the hammer on full cock until the shooter is down in the firing position. A cartridge may not be loaded unless the shooter is in the firing position.
- e) All rifles shall be muzzle loaded from a single charged container; loading directly over the muzzle using a flask or similar device is prohibited.
- f) Rifles shall remain at the loading bench (ML Vertically and BL with empty chamber indicators) until the pit area is safe and the range officer instructs that you may commence handling of the firearm.

1.2 Rifles

Rifles shall be of the style of the firearms fired from the shoulder in the mid - late 1800's era of International Rifle Matches. If rifle is in question, please confer with match organizer/director for approval prior to event.

- a) Rifles may be of original make or recreated pieces made so as to fulfill the intent of a traditional rifle.
- b) The maximum weight of the rifle shall not exceed 12 pounds 2 oz with sights (original Creedmoor's were 10#). Scoped rifles shall not exceed 15#
- c) Set Triggers are allowed.
- d) ML ignition shall be of the percussion type using conventional percussion caps.
- e) Fixed, adjustable or add-on leather covered cheek rest are permitted (not included in 12#/15# weight limit).
- f) False muzzles and/or bullet starters may be used provided there is NO form of any mechanical advantage or use of any such device (including hand), which serves as a 'hammer' to start the bullet.
- g) Shooter must clean and/or load his own rifle during a match, unless physically handicapped.
- h) The rifle checked in at registration shall be the rifle to be shot the entire match.
- i) In the event the acceptability of a rifle is in question, the event organizer and one event setup member shall be designated to judge and inspect the rifle to be used. If the rifle fails the acceptance criteria, the rifle and shooter will be allowed to participate but ineligible for awards.

1.3 Sights

- a) Sights shall be iron peep rear and aperture front.
- b) Sights may have front and/or rear windage adjustment.
- c) Sights may adorn a spirit level.
- d) Open or grooved rear sights with post or aperture front sight may be used.
- e) Period scopes on BL will be allowed at this time. (i.e. 15# rifle with scope).

1.4 Shooting Position

- a) Rifles may be fired with the aid of a sling (2-point connection on rifle) from prone or sitting position.
- b) Rifles may be fired from the prone or sitting position with the hand supported by a fixed or adjustable rest.
- c) Rifle may be fired from the prone or sitting position with the rifle resting directly on one set of cross-sticks.
- d) Rear position shooting is allowed with extreme caution.
- e) Unsupported matches – no artificial support onto body and/or rifle.

1.5 Propellant/Powder

- a) ONLY black powder shall be used in matches (no BP substitutes).
- b) No smokeless or semi-smokeless powder of any kind shall be used.
- c) Black powder granulations shall be between 1F and 3F size only.

1.6 Projectiles/Bullets

- a) Only lead projectiles are permitted in matches.
- b) Two-piece lead and lead alloy projectiles are permitted.
- c) Projectiles may be of solid or hollow nose construction with any type base design.
- d) Paper patch or grooved lubricated lead bullets shall only be used.
- e) Projectile caliber shall be greater than .400 inches and not exceed .580 inches in diameter.
- f) Projectile weight shall be greater than 400 grains and not exceed 580 grains.
- g) Bullets may not be coated with a copper or any other metal or alloy.
- h) Gas checks and Sabots of any type are prohibited.

1.7 Wads

- a) Wads made from any safe non-sparking material such as cardboard, paper, plastic, hair, wax, grease solid lubricants and combinations of these may be used.
- b) Wads must be cut from flat sheet material.
- c) No “cupped” wads or sabots allowed.

1.8 Targets/Scoring

- a) Targets will be Creedmoor square style for the appropriate distances.
- b) One 10 consecutive shot string for score will be scored within each relay.
- c) Sighters are allowed at each distance.
- d) One sighter can be converted to start the 10-shot string.
- e) Scored shot hitting its intended target shall count.
- f) Scored shot fired at the targets will count regardless of load.
- g) Mis-loads may be discharged into the berm with no effect on scoring; Shooter must alert spotter/line officer of the situation before firing.
- h) Cross firing will be scored a miss.
- i) Paper targets shall be scored using the method of bullet hole touching the line – the higher value is given.
- j) In the event of a tie: 1) the X-ring; 2) the shooter with the least number of bad shots will win.

The spotter shall only give the shooter bullet location at the target. (Ex: 9 ring at 6 o'clock) and indicate mark on score sheet. The pitman and spotter shall assist their shooter with missed shots in relation to the target.