



BFTA Main Shoot Rules 2013

Shoot Rules

1. AIRGUNS

Air rifles of any calibre, which comply with the Statutory Limitations and BFTA Limitation (please see Rule 3a. below) in force at the time of the event, may be used. In an event specified for Air pistols, the Statutory Limitations together with the BFTA Limitation for Air pistols shall apply.

2. SIGHTS

Any form of sighting system may be used with the exception of Laser sights. No separate device, designed specifically for range-finding may be used.

3. EQUIPMENT TESTING

The Organisers must reserve the right to Chronograph any Rifle or Pistol used at any shoot that is subject to the BFTA rules, to ensure compliance with legal requirements. This can be done before, during, or after the shoot at the Chief Marshal's discretion

- a) The BFTA has declared a maximum pellet speed for rifles of 5 fps below the 12 ft/lbs limit; this is for the actual pellet being used by the shooter on the day. 5fps below 6 ft/lbs will apply for pistols.
- b) (Non-Grand Prix Series Competitions) A minimum of one registering shot and a max of 3 registering shots will be allowed over the chronograph, no power adjustments are permitted once the competitor has started the competition. Failure of the gun to comply with 3a above will disqualify that gun for the whole event. Any competitor whose gun fails the chronograph test will have their card marked as void but they may complete the course if they wish with another gun (See Rule 17 - FIRING LINE CONDUCT) to help maintain the group they are shooting in.
- c) (Grand Prix Series Competitions) A minimum of one registering shot and a maximum of 3 registering shots will be allowed over the chronograph, if the gun registers over the Current Legal Limit the shooter will be asked to remove the gun from the course. If the gun registers over the BFTA Limit but under the Current Legal Limit the shooter will receive a YELLOW CARD. On the issue of the first YELLOW CARD the shooter will receive a warning, will be allowed to carry on with the Competition and his/her score will count. On the issue of a second or subsequent YELLOW CARD during the season the score will be void.
- d) Deformed pellets may not be used for the testing process (see Penalties, Rule 14) and to this end the Chronograph Marshal may request visual examination of pellets before loading and/or after insertion into the Competitors Gun but before the breech is closed.

4. AMMUNITION

Any design of pellet that is completely made of lead, lead alloy, or zinc or zinc alloy may be used.

5. CHIEF MARSHALL & INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

- i. Prior to each shoot, the organisers will appoint and clearly identify a Chief Marshal and, if required, a Deputy. The responsibility of this appointment is the implementation of these rules and the overall conduct of the shoot. The Chief Marshal or the Deputy will be present and contactable throughout the duration of the shoot. In any matters arising from, or not covered by these rules, the Chief Marshal's decision shall be final.
- ii. The BFTA marshalling system shall be used on all BFTA events unless the BFTA rule otherwise or the particular event rules state an alternative marshalling system, e.g. Buddy.
- iii. The following stipulations apply in the interest of firing line safety and as a means of identifying marshals
 - a. All marshals at BFTA events must wear high visibility vests or jackets.



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- b. At BFTA events no person shall cross the shooting line unless that person is wearing a high visibility vest or jacket. (This restriction does not apply before the event has started or when the event has ended).

6. MAIN EVENT TARGETS

Fall when hit targets shall be used. All targets shall be clearly and consecutively numbered both at the target and the firing line. The hit zones shall be circular and of a contrasting colour to the faceplate. Course builders should allow for shooters who are affected by colour blindness.

Targets are to have:

- i. Yellow faceplates with black hit-zones, or
- ii. Black faceplates with yellow hit-zones, or
- iii. White faceplates with black hit-zones, or
- iv. Black faceplates with white hit-zones.

The use of simulated hit zones on any other part of the faceplate is prohibited. Standard hit zones shall be between 40 and 45 mm in diameter. The course may contain targets with reduced diameter hit zones, provided that they do not exceed 25% of the total number of targets in the course.

The following limitations shall apply to 'reduced hit zone' target:

- a. There may be a maximum of two 15mm hit zone targets set out to a maximum distance of 25 yards.
- b. All other reduced diameter hit zone targets shall be 25mm in diameter, set out to a maximum distance of 35 yards.
- c. No enforced positional shots e.g. standing or kneeling are allowed on reduced hit zone targets.

Please see separate 'MODIFIED LENGTH COURSE' Rules and recommendations for possible implementation at Regional and Club Level to enable Grading Standard Courses.

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 excepting any circumstance under Rule 15 or for any other reason deemed valid by the Chief Marshal.

The minimum distance for any target from the firing line shall be 8 yards and the maximum distances of any target from the firing line shall be 55 yards.

All targets should be clearly visible down to a height of 21cm (A4 size set to landscape format) measured at the centre of the gate on firing line.

The total number of targets designated as standing and/or kneeling must not exceed 20% of the total of targets on that particular course and these positional targets should be divided as equally as possible.

For example:

On a 30 target course (4 standing and 2 kneeling targets)

On a 40 target course (4 standing and 4 kneeling targets)

On a 50 target course (6 standing and 4 kneeling targets)

No enforced positional shots shall be set beyond a distance of 45yds.

8. TARGET SEQUENCE

All targets 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 in 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 if not already scored from a previous lane.



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9. 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 falls. Any movement of the plate which does not result in the target or the hit zone falling shall be scored a miss. A Hit shall be marked with an X and a Miss marked with a 0. Any declaration on a score card must be correctly filled in. The declaration shall state "To the best of knowledge and belief the equipment listed by me conforms to the current legal requirement".

10. SHOOTING

- i. Any shooting position is allowed, but some lanes may be designated as 'standing' or 'kneeling'.
- ii. Lanes designated kneeling may be shot from the standing position (Both targets must be shot using the same position).
- iii. *Note: 10. i. and 10. ii. do not apply for Open Class entrants please see Open Class Rule for details.*
- iv. All shots, from whatever shooting position must be made with the rifle's muzzle wholly beyond the firing line and the rifle's trigger wholly behind the firing line.
- v. Fully adjustable Rifle Stocks are permitted to accommodate various shooting styles and positions with no limitation as to design. Additional attachments are not permitted to be added or removed during the course of the event
 - a. A single rifle sling, separate or otherwise, and/or a butt hook are permitted as a means of steadying the aim.
 - b. Competitors shall not gain extra support by resting their feet against any post or similar object that forms part of the course. Equally, the back must not rest against any support that is not part of the shooter's seat.
 - c. Any type of clothing, glove, or footwear is allowed provided it is not a hazard to the shooter or others. Clothing may be padded to reduce the pressure of the rifle stock resting on the arm or knee. The padding may be e.g. felt, or layers of cloth.
 - d. The surface of the pad on which the stock rests must be flat and not shaped to provide lateral support to the stock.
 - e. Separate pads may be worn over non-padded clothing provided that they conform to the above specifications.
- vi. Only one shot is allowed at any one target. Shots taken at any one lane shall not exceed the total number of targets in that lane with the following exceptions:
 - a. Rule 8.
 - b. Rule 13
 - c. Rule 17c. Un-sighted shots with the knowledge and consent of partner/s or Marshall.
 - d. In a shoot-off situation.

Definitions of shooting positions:

Prone: The Gun and forearm, from elbow to fingertips, must be clear of any artificial or natural support.

Kneeling: There shall be only 3 points of contact with the ground (2 feet and 1 knee). The rear foot shall be upright and straight in line with the knee. A legal seat may be used to support the rear foot and/or ankle, or to keep the knee clean provided that the foot has contact with the ground. The leading hand will support the gun and, forward of the wrist should itself be unsupported (the wrist is deemed to be the hinged joint between hand and forearm).

Standing: Any shot taken in a standing position without the aid of any support.

Freestyle: Any position that is safe and comfortable to the shooter and does not infringe the rules above.



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11. TIME PER LANE

In the event of a competitor delaying excessively, the Marshall 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. (Timing is mandatory for all BFTA events)

If the total time exceeds 2 minutes the competitor will forfeit any 'hit' obtained after the expiry of the allotted time.

12. SEATING

The maximum height for any form of seating is 4 inches (100 mm), including any backrest. Bean-bags should be measured when flattened between 2 boards. The seat may be used as an aid to sitting, kneeling, or standing shots using the above rules but for no other purpose.

13. DISPUTED SCORES

Any disputed score must be made prior to leaving the target. Under no circumstances should the competitor touch the reset cord until the dispute has been resolved. Targets should be checked by the Chief Marshal or his/her deputy whose decision shall be final. Any target found to be defective should be repaired or replaced and re-shot.

14. PENALTIES

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

15. LEAVING THE FIRING LINE

The competitors may only leave the firing line under the following conditions:

- a. Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case his score to that point will be presented as a valid result.
- b. To affect a repair to equipment that 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.
(Rule 15 b. is NOT applicable when a shot-gun start is employed; in this circumstance please see shooting Rule 17 - FIRING LINE CONDUCT)
- c. For any other occurrence deemed valid by the Chief Marshal or Deputy.

Note: In Rule 15 b, the competitor may replace the offending part or equipment with the permission of the Chief Marshal or Deputy. A visit to the zeroing range is not permitted by the competitor or any person on his behalf, using the repaired or exchanged equipment, before re-commencing the shoot. (Unless the Chief Marshal grants specific permission).

In all the above cases the competitor's scorecard must be handed to the Chief Marshal or Deputy and his/her permission obtained to leave the firing line, with a stipulated time for return. The card will be marked with the time of departure. Any card not claimed within the designated time will be submitted for scoring.

16. TIED SCORES

In the event of tied scores a shoot-off shall decide the final placings. The course of fire and the targets must be representative of the event.

17. FIRING LINE CONDUCT

Coaching or persistent barracking of a competitor in competition is not allowed. Rifles and/or equipment will NOT be shared on the firing line (except in the circumstances below). In the event of a 'cease fire' order, guns will be discharged safely into the ground and the muzzle kept angled downwards. 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.

Should a competitor's gun, sight or any other equipment break down having begun a shotgun-start competition, the following will apply.



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- a. The competitor may not leave the firing line, but a replacement gun may be given to him/her and the faulty gun etc. removed from the course. The replacement gun will be tested over the chronograph at the earliest opportunity.
- b. If the competitor's partner(s) are in agreement he/she may continue by sharing a gun with one or more of them, again the faulted equipment shall be removed from the course.

Either a. and/or b. above must take place in agreement with the Chief Marshal.

(Coaching may be allowed by team members for certain Team events at the discretion of the Chief Marshal). All practice shooting or zeroing must be restricted to the zeroing range. No practice shots may be fired on the main course until all shoot-offs have been concluded.

Whilst shooters are competing on the course, whether they be shooting or scoring, any form of audible equipment i.e. mobile phone or sound systems (whether or not they utilise earphones) must be switched off or muted.

Any auditory obstruction, e.g. earphones, ear defenders, ear plugs etc., shall not be worn unless agreed with the Chief Marshal for medical reasons.

There may be a necessity to make or take a mobile phone call whilst on the course but the Chief Marshall should be informed at booking in.

18. CLASS OF ENTRY

If used, there will be classes of entry per the BFTA Grading system. Shooters may elect to shoot in a higher grade. This does not effect their listed grading unless results alter their grading percentage. Supervision of shooters under the age of 17 years will be in accordance with legal requirements.

NOTE: A shooting partner in competition does not necessarily constitute supervision of a shooter under 14 years of age.

The above age limits are subject to variation if the law changes at any time during the shooting season.

19. DRUGS & ALCOHOL

The carrying and/or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs on the firing line are strictly prohibited.

The handling or usage of a gun will not be permitted if the competitor has consumed alcohol or illegal drugs prior to shooting.

20. DISPLAY OF RULES AND INSURANCE

A current copy of the BFTA Main Shoot Rules shall be clearly displayed at the booking-in point of all shoots, together with a current and valid Certificate of Insurance.

21. RULES

The above rules must be strictly adhered to.

Roger Moy (President) March 28th 2013, EGM.