

# South African Field Target Airgun Association

## NATIONAL RULES & GUIDANCE NOTES

2011 Rev. 1

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### 1. AIRGUNS

Any air rifle that abides by the relevant rules will be allowed in SAFTAA competitions. It is the responsibility of the individual owner to ensure that his/her rifle complies with the limit of 16J (12ft/lbs) – SFT 18 ft/lbs.

Event organisers reserve the right to test rifles over a chronograph before or during the event. The rifle may not leave the course after the test until the course is completed. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that his/her rifle falls within the limits as set out.

If the test is failed, the competitor will be given the opportunity to reset his rifle and undergo another test. Should the rifle fail this second test as well, the competitor will be disqualified from that competition (may shoot but score does not count).

Only 4.5mm and 5.0mm air rifles will be allowed – 5.5mm and larger calibre air rifles may not be used.

A rifle may be fitted with a fully adjustable stock (which includes an adjustable butt plate/hook, cheek piece and knee rest). A stock that incorporates such homemade, or other aftermarket modifications as deemed suitable will be permitted.

A single rifle sling, that is attached to the rifle at a minimum one and a maximum of two points when a shot is taken, is permitted as a means of steadying the aim. The sling may be removed from the rifle when not in use.

The use of mono/bipods (or other devices that touch the ground or body) for supporting the rifle while taking a shot is not allowed for FT shooting, but is allowed for SFT under 13 yrs. This equipment may also be used for resting the rifle on (with the muzzle facing in a safe direction) when not in use.

Alterations to the rifle or stock will be allowed during the match except for power adjustment. No extra padding bags used to rest the rifle on any part of the body will be allowed.

Rifles with multi-shot magazines are not prohibited, but special attention to safety should be given.

### 2. SAFETY

The presiding range officer for the shoot shall have the right to determine range safety and air rifle safety etiquette. Common air rifle safety practices must be complied with at all times.

### **3. SIGHTS**

Any form of sighting system may be used. No separate device designed specifically for or used for range finding may be used to range the targets. No electronic rangefinding/windage equipment is allowed.

### **4. AMMUNITION**

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

### **5. RANGE OFFICERS**

Event organisers (clubs or regions) are expected to provide a sufficient number of range officers (R.O.'s) to ensure safe and efficient running of the event. The R.O's should be clearly identifiable.

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).

### **6. MARSHALLING**

#### **National and League shoots**

A range is declared open by the sounding of two whistles/hoots. One whistle/hoot closes the range and any shots loaded should be fired into the ground. Timers should also be stopped. After the range reopens, 30 seconds is added to the shooters' time and shooting re-commences.

A national competition may be completed in one or more events. It is recommended that at least every third lane have a Marshal that makes certain that all rules are adhered to.

Only participants will score each other - no third parties. The marshal must also report all irregularities to the RO on duty. The marshal may not enter the course without the permission of the RO.

It is expected that competitors will have different partners from match to match. Partners shall be from different clubs where possible.

It is expected that shooters at league matches will compete with their own rifles. Sharing of the same rifle during an event is however allowed.

Under 14 shooters must be paired with adults who will also supervise the Under 14 shooters.

No coaching is allowed during a league event (no help from anyone).  
THIS WILL LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION

## 7. TARGETS

Reactive targets that are resettable from the firing point shall be used (Meaning they fall back when hit in the kill zone).

The trip plate shall be of a contrasting colour to the face plate:

Freestyle: White face plate with black trip plate.

Kneeling: Yellow face plate with black trip plate.

Standing: Red face plate with white trip plate.

Targets, faceplates and paddles must be 100% visible from all shooting positions – standing, kneeling, sitting and prone.

Shooters must reset their own targets after shooting a lane but only after the scorer has marked the target as a miss or a hit on the shooter's score card.

The minimum distance for any target shall be 10 meters. The maximum target distance shall be 50 meters.

The course may also contain targets with reduced diameter apertures with the following limitations:

**League Level:** total number of such targets may not exceed 55% of the total number of targets for that course.

**National Championship:** total number of such targets may not exceed 70% of the total number of targets for that course.

**Standards for the use of reducers (a one meter tolerance is allowed).**

- 1) Apertures of not less than 30mm may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of 40 meters.
- 2) Apertures of not less than 20 mm may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of 30 meters.
- 3) Apertures of not less than 13 mm may be used on freestyle targets to a maximum distance of 20 meters
- 4) Apertures of not less than 20mm may be used on positional targets to a maximum distance of 20 meters.
- 5) Apertures of not less than 30mm may be used on positional targets to a maximum distance of 30 meters.
- 6) The maximum distance for positional targets is 40 meters.
- 7) A reducer should be placed on the side of the target facing the shooter.
- 8) Reducers must be the same colour as the face plate

- 9) The range officer at every competition shall provide a signed declaration that the range complies with these standards

**Note:** Course designers should bear in mind prevailing conditions when using reduced aperture targets.

### **FAULTY TARGET**

The course organiser shall ensure that faulty targets are reduced to an absolute minimum

Every possible effort should be made to prevent targets from failing.

In the unlikely event that a target is found to be faulty, the following steps should be taken:

**If the faulty target cannot be repaired/adjusted immediately, it shall be replaced by another target of the same colour with the same size reducer. Only the competitor that raised the query gets the opportunity to shoot this target again or if the R.O. can verify a hit, can receive the point.**

## **8. COURSE OF FIRE**

A full course of fire for league shoots consists of at least 50 targets. A full course of fire must be completed for a score to be deemed valid except in circumstance under Rule 13 (Leaving the firing line).

**NO PERSON WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE EVENT AFTER IT HAS STARTED,** unless by prior arrangement with the organisers.

**ENTRIES WILL CLOSE 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE EVENT**

Equal amounts of targets must be placed in lanes to ensure that no bottlenecks are formed.

The number of positional shots in any one course may not exceed 20% of the total number of targets in that course, **for national and international competitions, this can be increased to a maximum of 30%.**

All targets must be set up perpendicular to the firing point. If possible, no light must be visible between the faceplate and the striker plate.

All shots must be taken from within a designated firing area. The whole torso of the competitor must be behind the straight line between the range sticks. The trigger must be behind the firing line and the barrel end beyond. Should range sticks not be available, another means of identifying the shooting line must be present (Chalk line, mat or markers)

All targets should ideally be clearly numbered and must be shot in numerical order. If not numbered the targets must be shot from left to right.

In the event of a target being shot out of sequence, the competitor shall forfeit that point, being credited with a 'miss' and resume shooting at the correct next target.

Out of sequence shots, involving targets on a following 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:

- a. Un-sighted shots with the knowledge of partner or R.O
- b. Broken target that has been repaired/replaced
- c. In a shoot-off situation.

A shot is fired if air is discharged from a gun with the bolt closed.

If a target does not react after an alleged hit, the following will apply:

- The incident must be reported to the R.O.
- The R.O will inspect the target and take the necessary steps.

## 9. SCORING

Scoring shall be based on one point for each knock back and zero for a miss. A hit shall only be awarded when the target falls. If the target does not fall back a miss shall be scored. Hits shall be marked with an X and misses marked with a 0. Scoring for PCP and spring gun is the same in FT.

Any challenge to the above must be made prior to leaving the lane. Any dispute not resolved at that time shall be referred to the R.O., whose decision shall be final.

In the event of tied scores, a shoot-off will be used to decide placing. The event organiser will select a lane for the shoot off, which will take place as follows:

- All shooters with equal scores and who qualify for a medal/prize will participate in the shoot off.
- One shot will be taken at each target on the lane from the freestyle position;
- If still equal, one shot will be taken at each target on the lane from the kneeling position;
- If still equal, one shot will be taken at each target on the lane from the standing position;
- The shoot off will continue from the standing position until the winner(s) has been established.

If a qualifier does not participate in a shoot off, he/she will not receive any medal/prize.

## 10. 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.

All forms of clothing are permissible.

The use of a seat is allowed; the maximum height for any form of seating is 127mm (5 inches), including any backrest. The seat may only be used as an aid for 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 be gained.

The method for measuring the seat is by passing it through an opening of 127mm X 400mm made of 20mm press wood board or similar.

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.

- **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 one hand, which in turn may not rest directly on the knee. A legal cushion may be used as support under the rear foot or ankle, or to keep the knee clean as long as the foot has contact with the ground. This rear foot must remain vertical in the kneeling position.

- **Standing:**

Any shot taken from the standing position without the aid of any support other than a sling

## 11. TIMING

The maximum time allowed per lane will be calculated on the following basis: One minute preparation time plus one minute per target. This time will run continuously. Timing shall commence the moment the shooter enters the designated shooting area to shoot.

Timing will be done by the **scorer** only and prior arrangements between competitors must be made as to the time intervals for time notification to be given to the shooter. (Good sportsmanship will be expected from all competitors regarding timing notification to their fellow shooters)

If the maximum time in minutes is exceeded, the competitor will forfeit any successful hit obtained after the expiry of the allotted time.

IF THE STOPWATCH/TIMER IS NOT USED, THE SCORER WILL BE WARNED, and on a second transgression, DISQUALIFIED. Warnings will be recorded on the guilty party's score card.

## 12. PENALTIES

The penalty for unsafe practice or any form of cheating is disqualification, with the club or provincial association reserving the right to take further action.

### **13. LEAVING THE FIRING LINE**

Competitors may leave the firing line under the following conditions only:

- a. Voluntary abandonment of the shoot, in which case his/her score up to that point, will be presented as a valid result.
- b. To repair/replace equipment that has been rendered unsafe or incapable of firing a shot.
- c. This does not include POI shift of equipment or poorly zeroed systems.
- d. Any other occurrence, which is deemed valid by the R.O (e.g. extreme weather conditions that may cause a safety hazard).
- e. A shooter may refill his/her rifle on the range (event organisers should provide a bottle on the course - competitors need to supply their own adaptors).

**Notes:**

Under no circumstances may any competitor visit the zeroing range once a match has commenced, or fire any shouldered or aimed test shots at any form of targets natural or otherwise.

In all cases, the scoring card must be handed to the R.O. that gave permission for leaving the firing line. It must be collected from the same RO or his replacement on returning to the firing line.

### **14. 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 may 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 unloaded and un-cocked when not in use.

No competitor may cross the firing line to enter the course. Only R.O.'s may enter the course. A Marshal may enter the course if a R.O. instructed him/her to do so.

### **15. PROVINCIAL LOG SERIES**

Complete provincial logs consist of a series of not less than six league shoots per annum. Approval of each provincial calendar is by sanction of the SAFTAA committee only (on advice of the provincial secretary). The minimum requirements for incorporation into the provincial log series will be the following:

- a. SAFTAA rules apply, including but not limited to time, equipment and targets.
- b. Minimum of 50 targets to be shot. Should the hosting club be unable to set up 50 targets, specified lanes may be repeated to make up the deficit, with prior approval by the SAFTAA committee.
- c. At least 10 FT shooters must participate (minimum 3 SAFTAA members).
- d. Members from at least two clubs must participate.

The SAFTAA committee may impose any additional requirements it deems necessary in the best interest of the sport.

The score of a shooter competing in a league shoot outside his or her province will be recorded in the provincial log of the province where the shooter normally competes.

Unfinished competitions – if any league competition is called off due to bad weather, etc., no log points will be recorded for that match.

All score cards must be handed/delivered to the Association's secretary immediately after each league shoot for updating of log sheets.

## **16. CLASSES & GRADING (PCP&SPRING)**

### **CLASSES**

- Veterans 50 years or older at the beginning of a year
- Senior men 17 or older at the beginning of a year
- Senior ladies 17 or older at the beginning of a year
- Juniors (boys) younger than 17 at the beginning of a year
- Juniors (girls) younger than 17 at the beginning of a year
- Under 13's younger than 13 at the beginning of a year

**THE ABOVE DOES NOT PRECLUDE A YOUNGER PERSON FROM ENTERING INTO AN OLDER AGE GROUP (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VETERAN) PROVIDED THIS AGE GROUP WILL BE COMPETED IN FOR THE ENTIRE CALENDER YEAR APPLICABLE**

### **GRADING**

Categories of entry per the grading system will be as set out below. Grading will be done continuously on the log.

- Grade A Shooters with an average of 80% or more.
- Grade B Shooters with an average from 70% and below 80%.
- Grade C Shooters with an average from 60% and below 70%
- Grade D Shooters with an average below 60%

All competitors irrespective of class will be graded as above

**CLUBS SHOULD PAIR/SQUAD BEGINNERS AND Under 13's TOGETHER AT LEAGUE SHOOT.**

Only fully paid up SAFTAA members will be graded

Medals and/or trophies/prizes may be awarded in all Classes and Grades providing sufficient entries have been received.

A guideline for the number of awards should be based on the number of contenders per class as follows:

Six or more contenders – three awards;

Four/five contenders – two awards;

Three contenders – one award;

Less than three contenders – no award.

Additional Classes may be included in a competition if demand warrants it

## **17. TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA (South African National Team)**

- **SAFTAA** members only.
- Team members may be selected from all classes.
- In order to be selected for the team you must be a South African citizen with a South African passport.
- The National Trials log shall consist of a qualifier's six highest league scores of which at least three must be away scores, and which were achieved during the twelve month period immediately preceding the National Trials.
- shooters averaging 60% or higher in six league scores on the National Log will be allowed to enter for the National Trials – up to a maximum of the top 100 averages.
- A minimum of two National Trial matches must be shot.
- The National Team shall consist of the top eight available finishers at the National Trials.

## **18. INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES**

The possession and/or consumption of any intoxicating substance (alcohol or illegal drugs) before a shoot is completed, are strictly prohibited.

A competitor will not be permitted to handle or use a gun if the organiser identified/suspects that they have consumed alcohol or illegal drugs prior to shooting.

Such competitor will be asked to leave the club premises. The club reserves the right to pursue further action following any such misconduct.

## 19. INSURANCE AND RULES

Event organisers shall display a current copy of the rules.

Clubs shall provide indemnity and consent forms prior to shoots.

No shooter may participate without signing an indemnity form and no minor under the age of 18 may participate without a **consent form** from a parent or legal guardian.

## 20. SCORES

All score cards from league shoots must be handed/delivered to the Association's secretary immediately after each league shoot for updating of log sheets.

All scorecards need to be duly completed and signed by both the scorer and the shooter.

If a competitor should wish to query/challenge his/her score or other issues from a league competition, this should be taken up with the organising club's management at the event. If no satisfactory agreement is reached, the matter should be raised with the SAFTAA Technical Officer within fourteen days after the competition.

NO GRIPES SHOULD BE RAISED ON ANY INTERNET FORUM – these are not official SAFTAA sites.

## 21. SAFTAA COLOURS

SAFTAA colours will be awarded to top performing shooters at the end of each National Trials according to the following rules:

1. Members who had obtained higher colours at these trials or previously (Protea/SAARA) will be excluded.
2. Colours will be awarded in all classes.
3. The number of awards per class shall be established as set out at the end of Section 16 above, based on the number of (non-Protea) contenders.

## 22. SPORTER FIELD TARGET (SFT)

SFT is being introduced as an FT discipline aimed at bringing newcomers into FT shooting. It differs from normal FT rules only as follows:

1. Any PCP or springer airguns up to 18 ft/lb and less than 5.5 mm calibre may be used;
2. A target knock back scores two points and a hit scores one.
3. Shooters under the age of 13 may use bipods or any other means to stabilise their rifles.
4. Minors under the age of 14 will only be allowed to participate under supervision of a parent or guardian.
5. SFT shooters will be paired/squadded together at league shoots.
6. Clubs may decide on the minimum age for SFT participants at any shoot.