

2019



Rulebook

Black Powder Target Rifle Association

Official Rules and Regulations

Version 1.0, Revision 1.0

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Table of Contents

Section 1- Rules and Regulations of the BPTRA

Section 2- Eligibility of Competitors and Competitions

Section 3- Rifles, Ammunition and Equipment Rules

Section 4- Courses of Fire, Time and Positions

Section 5- Targets

Section 6- Match Director, Tournament Officers and Jury

Section 7- Challenges, Protests and Ties

Section 8- Classes

Section 9- Special Categories

Section 10- BPTRA Records

Section 1: Rules and Regulations of BPTRA

All competitors, matches and tournaments must adhere and abide to current rules and regulations in this rulebook to be compliant and in accordance with the BPTRA. In order to maintain individual membership and have approved matches and tournaments these rules must be observed and followed at all times. Match Directors will have the authority to make any onsite calls that are not addressed in this rulebook. However, a reasonable effort should be made to communicate such occurrences to the BPTRA for ruling or approval when possible.

Section 2: Eligibility of Competitors and Competitions

Any individual over the age of 18 may join the BPTRA by purchasing a scorebook and signing it for that calendar year. Juniors 18 and under, accompanied by a parent or guardian, over the age of 25, are allowed in any competition and will receive a free scorebook. The guardian must sign the scorebook for the Junior to compete. Match Directors may use their discretion to assess and address any concerns they may have to ensure a safe match.

Section 3: Rifle, Ammunition, Sights and Equipment

3.1 Rifle

Any safe single shot rifle, originally designed for black powder cartridge, may be used in competition as long as it meets the following guidelines:

(a) Rifle - A rifle that is pre-1899 in its design. This includes but is not limited to Sharps, Rolling Blocks, Ballards, Highwalls, Stevens 44 ½'s, Borchardts, Wessons, Trapdoor Springfields and Martini-Henry's. The rifle may be a safe original or a modern reproduction. No cast iron actions will be allowed. Muzzleloaders of the same era are allowed at the Match Director's discretion.

(b) Rifles must be chambered for a pre-1899 cartridge designed for these rifles. Any variations or exceptions must be approved by the BPTRA in advance of a match or tournament.

(c) Rifles must be under 25lbs including all attachments such as sights, mounts, cheek piece, recoil pad, etc.

3.2 Ammunition

In order to ensure a safe match environment and the safety of fellow competitors, the Match Director has the authority to determine on site, if a competitor's ammunition is safe. His decision cannot be protested. An accurate description of exact components, weights and assembly of your cartridges is required in writing upon request. A sample of ammo must be supplied to the Match Director upon request for inspection and disassembly. Any refusal to these requests will be immediate grounds for disqualification. Black powder and black powder substitutes are allowed. See Table 3.3 for allowed black powder substitutes. Safe Duplex loads are allowed. Duplex loads must be a minimum of 89% black powder by weight to smokeless powder weight. All non-black powder loads shall be loaded to typical black powder velocities to keep within the spirit of the game. Loads in any rifle shall not exceed 1450fps. All bullets must consist of a minimum 90% lead cast alloy. No gas checks or jacketed bullets are allowed.

Local Match Directors will have the final decision as to what ammunition is allowed in their match, so long as it is allowed in the BPTRA.

Table 3.3

Pyrodex
Blackhorn 209
Black MZ
Triple Se7en

3.4 Sights & Optics

Any pre-1899 period design type metallic sights are allowed. No optics in conjunction with metallic sights other than corrective shooting glasses are permitted.

(a) Pre-1899 scope sights or faithful reproductions may be used. There is no power limitation on the scope. Scope main tube shall be 3/4" or less in diameter. Lenses and assembly rings shall be 1" or less in diameter. Scopes must employ external adjustments for elevation and windage. Mounts are to be of a traditional style of the period. Unertl style mounts are acceptable but must utilize non-detent adjustments.

(b) Spotting Scopes - The use of a telescopic device to assist in reading shooting conditions and spot shots is permitted. It must be placed safely on the shooting line and to not interfere with shooters.

3.5 Equipment

(a) Shooting Kits - The shooting kit and/or shooting stool may not be placed forward of the firing line.

(b) A shooting mat may be used provided it is not constructed or used in a manner to provide artificial support.

(c) Cross sticks are to be traditional and reasonable for the conditions. The Match Director may determine the acceptability of a competitor's cross sticks. Secure cross sticks are essential to being safe.

(d) Gloves may be worn which do not form artificial support when shooting offhand or using cross sticks. Elbow pads are to be the same.

(e) Rests, Slings and Other Equipment - A wrist rest may consist of sandbags or purpose built rests in the "Any" position, but may not be affixed to the rifle in any manner. You must always have the hand or wrist in-between the rest and the rifle. The rifle may not be supported by the rest alone.

(f) Slings may only be used in the "Any" position. A sling may be used in conjunction with a wrist rest in the "Any" position competition over 600 yards.

(g) Shooting Jackets are to be lightweight and not provide artificial support. The purpose of a jacket is to provide elbow/shoulder protection as well as attach your sling.

(h) General - All devices or equipment which may facilitate any advantage and which are not mentioned in these rules, or which are contrary to the spirit of these rules and regulations, are forbidden. The Match Director or any other tournament official may inspect any item that is used during a match that might be outside of the spirit of a BPTRA competition. The responsibility shall be upon the competitor to submit questionable equipment, devices and apparel.

(i) Eye Protection - Eye protection is mandatory for anyone on or near the firing line. That area is defined by the Match Director.

(j) Ear Protection - All persons on or near the firing line are required to wear hearing protection. That area is defined by the Match Director.

(k) ECI's - will be in the chamber when rifles are not in the prep, ready or firing period.

Section 4. Courses of Fire, Times and Positions

The BPTRA recognizes 7 competitive courses of fire.

(1). LR-30, 30 shot Creedmoor match @ 800, 900, and 1000yds, 10 shots each distance, unlimited sighters. 30 minutes with 3 minute Prep Period.

(2). LR-45, 45 shot Creedmoor match @ 800, 900, and 1000yds, 15 shots each distance, unlimited sighters. 35 minutes with a 3 minute Prep Period.

(3). LR-1000, 30 shot, 1000yds only match, three strings of 10, unlimited sighters. 30 minutes with a 3 minute Prep Period.

(4). MR-Pos, 30 shot midrange position match, 10 shots each @ 200yds off hand, 300yds sitting, and 600yds any position, 4 sighters per distance total. 25 minutes with 3 minute Prep Period.

(5) MR-Any, 30 shot midrange any position, 10 shots each @ 200yds, 300yds, and 600yds, 4 sighters per distance total. 25 minutes with 3 minute Prep Period.

(6) MR-Any-500, 30 shot midrange any position, 10 shots each @ 300yds, 500yds, and 600yds, 4 sighters per distance total. 25 minutes with 3 minute Prep Period.

(7) MR-600, 30 shot midrange any position, three 10 shot strings all @ 600yds, 4 sighters per string total. 25 minutes with 3 minute Prep Period.

4.2 Time Limits

At the Match Director's discretion, either individual time or block time may be used.

Individual time is prep period plus allotted time for a single shooter.

Block time is prep time plus both shooters time with 3 minutes of prep added for the 2nd shooter.

ie. Prep + 53 minutes for midrange, 63 minutes for LR-30 and 73 minutes for LR-45.

Time limits may be modified by a Match Director for a course of fire so long as they are shorter than what is in these rules. Time limits cannot be modified to be longer than in this rulebook.

4.3 Firing Positions

Off Hand - Any standing position without artificial support. The rifle will be supported by the hands and one shoulder. All parts of one hand must be forward of the pistol grip.

Sitting/Kneeling - The shooter may sit on the ground, box, bucket or simple armless chair using cross sticks of appropriate height. When kneeling you may use a roll, pad or mat under your knees on the firing line.

Prone - The shooter may use either cross sticks or wrist rest from a prone firing position. The rifle butt stock may not make contact with the shooting mat or ground and must be supported by the shooter's body. Any hand supporting the rifle shall not touch the ground from the wrist forward.

Any Position - The shooter may use any of the three listed firing positions. Off Hand, Sitting/Kneeling or Prone

Section 5. Targets

BPTRA uses standard High Power Targets for each distance listed below:

200 yards= SR

300 yards= SR-3

500 yards= MR-65

600 yards= MR-1

800-1000 yards= LR

Section 6. Match Director, Tournament Officers and Jury

6.1 Match Director- The Match Director is the official primarily responsible for presiding over the match to keep it safe and fair for all competitors. All things concerning safety, fairness, conduct and match/tournament related, are to be decided by the Match Director.

The Match Director may change match, firing conditions and course of fire from those shown in the program, provided a Match Director's Bulletin is posted for all competitors to see in a reasonable time before the start of a match. Competitors are responsible for checking this designated area before and after every day of the match/tournament for updates.

6.2 Match/Tournament Officials- Designated Line officers, Pit Officers and other officials are there to serve the match and their commands are to be obeyed by competitors and any other person on the range to ensure safe and fair operations.

6.3 Jury- For any BPTRA approved match, a Jury of 3 people shall be selected to decide any protests or challenges to the rules. The Match Director will select the jury but may not be on the jury along with any other match official unless there are not enough people in attendance. Any jury member that may be involved in the protest or challenge should be removed by the Match Director and replaced until that dispute is over. Majority wins when the Jury does not have a unanimous decision.

Section 7. Challenges, Protests and Ties

7.1 Challenges - When a competitor feels that a shot fired has been improperly evaluated or scored, the scoring may be challenged. The challenge must be made immediately upon reveal of the score to the Match Director or other official's attention. A Pit Officer should then be called to evaluate the target and be ready to address the challenge with accurate information. If there is no quick or safe resolution to the challenge a shooter may continue if it has been noted and approved by the Match Director or other official. The Pit Officer should remain with that target in question until the end of that relay, upon which further inspection can safely continue. The scorecard should not be signed until the issue has been resolved or no longer debated by the competitor. A challenge fee of \$5 is to be collected at the time of the challenge. The fee will be refunded if the competitor wins the challenge. All challenges will be decided by the Jury and the Jury's decision is final.

7.2 Protests - A competitor may formally protest:

1. Any injustice that they feel has transpired, except the evaluation of a target
2. The conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to compete
3. The equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use.

Ways to Protest

A protest must be initiated immediately upon the occurrence or observance of the protested incident. Failure to comply with the following procedures will automatically void the protest:

(a) State the complaint verbally to the Match Director or any match/tournament official or jury member

(b) In the case that you have time to file a written protest it must be submitted to the Match Director and then passed on to the Jury. If the Match Director is being protested it may be given directly to any Jury member.

(c) All protests will be decided by the Jury and the Jury's decision is final.

7.3 Ties

Tied numerical scores between competitors for a match or tournament will be settled in order of the following:

1. Higher X count for that match or tournament wins
2. Higher numerical score or X count at last shot longest distance wins
3. If #2 does not break the tie you must go to previous or next longest distance shot until tie is broken.

If declared before a match and pre-approved by the BPTRA, a Match Director may set up rules for a shoot-off scenario for competitors when a tie for numerical score and X count occurs.

Section 8. Classes

There are 5 classes in the BPTRA:

Marksmen
Sharpshooter
Expert
Master
Grand Master

8.1 In order to move up a class you must have two scores within a 2 year period in the class above yours. If you shoot 2 classes above your existing class you will be moved up automatically one class. This becomes effective on the scoreboard the same day you shoot the score.

Your BPCR Silhouette Class is directly transferable into the BPTRA for any midrange match. Any unclassified shooter will be entered as a Master and his/her first day score will put them in the appropriate class for that day and the rest of the match.

If you achieve a Master score in all 7 of the BPTRA disciplines in approved matches you will be awarded the title of Grand Master.

Table 8.2 defines scores and classes they fall into for each approved course of fire.

Table 8.2

Courses of Fire	MARKSMEN	SHARPSHOOTER	EXPERT	MASTER
LR-30	0-199	200-219	220-249	250+
LR-45	0-269	270-329	330-374	375+
LR-1000	0-200	200-224	225-239	240+
MR-POS	0-209	210-244	245-264	265+
MR-ANY	0-240	240-264	265-284	285+
MR-ANY-500	0-239	240-254	255-274	275+
MR-600	0-210	210-239	240-259	260+

There are two variants that can be added to any course of fire in table 8.2.

Variant-**R**= Rifleman Class only can enter this match.

Variant-**INT**= International Rules. No cross sticks are allowed. The match will be shot with a sling only at midrange and a wrist rest for long range.

Section 9. Special Categories

There are only 4 Special Categories in the BPTRA.

Open- Any BPTRA member competitor.

Woman- Any Woman BPTRA member competitor.

Junior- Any BPTRA member age 18 and under.

Rifleman- Any BPTRA member shooting without the aid of a spotter for a match or tournament.

The BPTRA does not distinguish between Scopes, Irons, Senior, Super Senior, Military Rifle, Tollofson, etc. All competitors are eligible for the match win and overall places. All BPTRA competitors are eligible to set BPTRA records either overall, or in their special categories during BPTRA approved competitions.

Section 10. BPTRA Records

All courses of fire listed in the BPTRA rules are eligible for BPTRA records. All individual distances in the approved courses of fire are also eligible for distance records. BPTRA records can be held by any member eligible to compete in a BPTRA match. All records will be submitted in writing to the BPTRA for final approval in the form of the official match scores and report form. The scorecard with the record should be included and signed by the competitor and Match Director.

The records categories that will be acknowledged are as follows:

- **Open-** High overall score in any course of fire or individual distance
- **Woman-** High overall score by a woman in any course of fire or individual distance
- **Junior-** High Overall score by a junior in any course of fire or individual distance
- **Rifleman-** High overall score in any course of fire or individual distance by a competitor without the aid of a spotter.

You must start and finish a match as a Rifleman if you enter as such. If you take the aid from a spotter at any time during your course of fire you are disqualified and the Match Director will decide if you are eligible to finish the match.