

Rules & Standard Operating Procedures

600 Yard Range

Solon Sportsmen's Association

1. General

The 600-yard range is intended for the conduct of rifle practice and matches at distances of 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards.

2. Facilities

The 600-yard range consists of 18 firing points with firing lines at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards. It is intended for firing only at these designated distances.

3. Range Limitations and Safety Requirements

Live fire shooters will:

- a. Fire only authorized firearms and ammunition, e.g. no incendiary or tracer ammunition.
- b. Fire at authorized targets only. Paper or cardboard targets are to be used only. These targets are to be placed on cardboard/coroplast backers, mounted on a target frame authorized and designed for use in the target carriers. E-Target Frames will conform to the dimensions of the target carriers (i.e. wooden 6' x 6') to ensure safe use on the range and for competitors in the pits.
- c. Ensure all projectiles impact the backstop.
- d. Ensure range flag is displayed at the 600-yard line to indicate the range is in use.
- e. Call a "Cease fire" and make safe all firearms before a shooter moves forward of the firing line.
- f. Will use appropriate eye and ear protection.
- g. Notify the High Power Committee of any range issues and the SSA board of Trustees of any range or grounds rules violations.
- h. Police all brass, paper and trash and dispose of them properly.
- i. Park only at designated areas (600 Yard Parking Area, Pits, Pit Road). There will be no driving or parking on the range.

4. Authorized & Prohibited Firearms

In accordance with the club rules, belt-fed .50 BMG caliber rifles are not authorized for use. All other rifles are authorized if they are safe, and their projectiles will impact the backstop.

5. Authorized Personnel

The following persons can fire on the 600-yard range:

- a. Current members of SSA that have demonstrated proficiency with the nuances associated with firing at longer distances and have been issued a SSA 600-yard range certification card.
- b. Invited guests of members, providing the member is present and assumes full responsibility for the conduct of the guests, and in accordance with SSA general rules.
- c. Personnel approved by the club trustees.
- d. Shooters participating in an SSA organized match and have completed an SSA hold harmless agreement for the current year.

6. Personnel Responsibilities

- a. Board of Trustees
 - i. Maintain overall responsibility of range operations.

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- ii. Review and approve appropriate match schedules, range development and maintenance efforts as presented by the High Power Committee Members.
- b. High Power Committee Members
 - i. Organize and conduct matches, with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Changes to the schedule shall be brought to the board's attention.
 - ii. Plan and execute, with approval of the Board of Trustees, improvements and maintenance of the range.
 - iii. Work in tandem with other association committees for the betterment of the club and its' members.
 - iv. Committee membership is voluntary and open to any association member qualified to fire on the range.
- c. Members
 - i. Members will always conduct themselves in an orderly manner and will be responsible for their guests' actions.
 - ii. All shooters are responsible for their guns and ammunition while on the grounds.
- d. Range Safety Officers
 - i. Members that are NRA RSO's or CMP Line Officers will be present on the firing line during matches to ensure safe actions of competitors on the firing line.
 - ii. At least one RSO/Line Officer will need to be present during a match.
 - iii. A member cannot be actively competing while serving as the RSO/Line Officer; however, the RSO/Line Officer may be calling the line and serve as the RSO/Line Officer.

7. Range Qualification Card

- a. The range qualification card will be issued to members qualified to fire on the range on an individual basis.
- b. Members will be qualified for the 600 range once they meet one of the following criteria:
 - i. Successful completion of an across the course NRA/CMP match or Midrange match, including pit duties, plus 600-yard specific training from the HP committee chairman or his designee. This training will include instruction on range operations, target pit, target carrier operations and safety precautions.
 - ii. Completion of a 600-yard range overview presentation given by the HP Committee Chairman or his designee to a known competent shooter. This training will include instruction on range operations, target pit, target carrier operations and safety precautions.
 - iii. Completion of a range orientation shoot presented by the HP Committee Chairman or his designee. This shoot will include instruction on range operations, target pit, target carrier operations, safety precautions and firing at a minimum of 300 yards to ensure competency.

8. Hours of Operation and Scheduling

- a. The 600-yard range follows the same operating hours as the general range rules, except firing may begin as early as 8:00 AM.

9. Match Operations

- a. A certified NRA RSO or CMP Line Officer will be present on the firing line during live fire to ensure safety. The match director may serve as the RSO/Line Officer if certified.
- b. Matches will be open to the public and will be governed by any sanctioning body rules and/or those of the SSA.
- c. Provisions shall be made to identify and shepherd any novice shooters by assigning a coach and or squadding with an experienced shooter. Novice match shooters should be squadded near center line.

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- d. If a shooter has difficulty making visible hits, they must stop shooting per SSA/NRA rules.
- e. Match Program – All matches will have a published match program available to potential competitors before the match. The program will be distributed to an e-mail list of active competitors. Match dates will be submitted to ORPA, CMP and NRA publications.
- f. Hold Harmless Release – All competitors will fill out and sign an SSA Hold Harmless form annually.
- g. Match Fees – Will be set to cover the cost of non-member's range fee and operation expenses. Match fees for SSA members will be to cover operation expenses as well. These will be published in the Match Program
 - Current Match Fees:
 - 1. Across the Course and Mid-Range Matches
 - a. Non-SSA Members: \$25
 - b. SSA Members: \$10
 - c. Juniors: \$10
 - d. NRA/CMP League Fee \$5 per annum
 - 2. "Fun Matches"
 - a. Non-SSA Members: \$25
 - b. SSA Members: \$10
 - c. Juniors: \$10
 - 3. Other match entry fees will be defined by the match director and in accordance with guidelines set forth by SSA
- h. Gate Operation – The main gate will be opened during the entry time defined in the match program. The gate will then be closed at muster time and during the match. The gate will be reopened at the end of the match until all guests have exited the grounds. The match director or designated person is responsible for ensuring the gate is opened and closed.
- i. Match Check-In – Competitors will be checked in at the pole barn, at which point match fees will be collected and hold-harmless forms completed.
- j. Guests Logged In – The match director or his designee will write the names of all non SSA member match shooters into the logbook located in the pole barn.
- k. Range Safety Briefing – Will be performed before the match with all competitors and match support personnel present.
- l. Parking – Parking will be in the parking area next to the 600-yard line or in the pits. Parking on one side of pit road may be allowed by the match director if there are a small number of participants. (weather permitting). Overflow parking will be at the short ranges.
- m. Pit Road Travel – No vehicles will travel the pit road during actual firing.
- n. 600 Range Entry Rope – This rope will be hung during the match to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the range during live fire.
- o. Range Flag – The 600-yard range flag will be flown while the range is occupied.
- p. Lunch Break – Will be determined by the match director and published in the match bulletin.
- q. Awards – Will be presented if appropriate for the match or series of matches.
- r. Preregistration – Will be defined by the match program.
- s. Squadding – Will be defined based on the type or match and the number of participants.
- t. Relay Changes – Will be defined based on the type or match and the number of participants.
- u. Restricted Areas – No one will be forward of the firing line and out of the pits during live fire.
- v. Pit Operations

- i. The pits will be run by the pit officer designated by the match director.
- ii. The pit officer will be responsible for the safe and effective operations of the pits during the match.
- iii. The pit officer will ensure all competitors are familiar with the safe operations of the target carriers.
- iv. The pit officer will confer with the match director before sealing or unsealing the pits to ensure all personnel are accounted for.
- w. Communications – During a match, the firing line and pits will communicate with each other via hand-held two-way radios.
- x. Rainout Policy – Rainout Policy is maintained in the range safety briefing document.
- y. Range Event Expenses – Expenses related to matches or maintenance are to be submitted to the treasurer on an SSA expense form by the HP committee chairman or his designee.

10. Range Operations

- a. Range Flag – The 600-yard range flag will be flown while the range is occupied.
- b. Range Logbook – A 600-yard range logbook will be maintained by the High Power Committee Chairman and kept in a locked box at the base of the 600-yard range flagpole. The combination will be the same as the target shed combination. The range logbook will be filled out by certified members firing on the range indicating the time, date and name of all members and guests if not firing in an organized match. In the event of an organized match, the match director or his designee will fill out the log stating what match is being fired and the time frame involved.
- c. Target Shed – The target shed will have a combination lock with the combination known to all members certified to use the range. The target shed will be used to hold target frames, pit boxes stocked with appropriate scoring and marking discs, golf tees, etc. All necessary items to facilitate use of the range. The yellow lockers will contain bulk supplies for the use of the match director and his designee. The combination shall be different than that of the target shed and range box and known only to match directors, board of trustees, and HP Committee Chair and his designees.
- d. Target Carriers – Will be maintained to allow the range to operate for members and matches.
- e. Conex Box – The Conex box will have combination locks with the combination known to all members certified to use the range. The Conex box will be used to hold e-target frames, extra cardboard, and additional frames. The tan lockers will contain bulk supplies for the use of the match director and his designee. The combination shall be different than that of the target shed and range box and known only to match directors, board of trustees, and HP Committee Chair and his designees.
- f. Green Lockers – The green lockers will contain bulk supplies (score cards, hold harmless, squadding sheets, etc.) for the use of the match director and his designee. The combination shall be different than that of the target shed and range box and known only to match directors, board of trustees, and HP Committee Chair and his designees.

11. Range Maintenance and Match Preparation

- a. Range Preparation – Work performed before a match in preparation for a match such as repairs, readying of equipment, facing of targets, non-compensated mowing etc., will be considered SSA. work party time for members. Only the High Power Committee Chairman will turn in the time worked.

12. Supply and Inventory

- a. Targets

- b. Target Frames
- c. Pit Boxes
 - i. Pasters – Black and White
 - ii. Scoring Disks
 - iii. Marking Disks and Golf Tees
 - iv. Chalk
 - v. Score Boards
- d. First Aid Kit – A first-aid kit will be stocked and maintained in the Target Shed for use.
- e. Hearing Protection – A supply of ear plugs will be maintained in the target shed for use by those missing hearing protection.

13. Emergency Procedures

- a. Severe Weather – Severe weather procedure is maintained in the range safety briefing document.
- b. Medical Emergency - In the event of a medical emergency, 911 is to be called if the victim is not movable to either the Andover clinic or Ashtabula County Medical Center. A first aid kit is to be stored in the target shed and clearly marked.

14. E-Targets

These procedures are designed primarily for match usage although they could apply during practice if there are multiple E-target users on the range at the same time during practice sessions:

- a. E-target use during a scheduled match is at the sole discretion of the Match Director and use will be in accordance of the match governing body (e.g. CMP or NRA).
- b. E-target owners planning to use your target to shoot a scheduled SSA match should notify the Match Director upon arrival.
- c. Setup – If the E-target is to be used in a match you must arrive early enough to have your target fully set up prior to the safety briefing.
- d. Location – The Match Director will give the member a target assignment upon arrival at the range. Member will then go immediately to the pits, after signing in, and setup their target, returning before the safety brief. Generally, a member will be assigned a target position for matches to minimize changes in the SSA owned ShotMarker Access Point.
- e. Repeaters – There are known issues when using multiple Silver Mountain Target systems on the line simultaneously. This does not seem to be an issue with ShotMarker systems. Competitors using SMT systems should verify their setup and viability prior to the match.
- f. Testing – It is your responsibility to ensure your target is setup properly and functioning. Reasonable allowances for troubleshooting/repair will be made at The Match Director's discretion. If there is a problem The Match Director may allow the target owner time during the first pit change. Any shots not fired due to a malfunctioning target will be scored as "DNF".
- g. Equipment – It is the target owner's responsibility to provide their own devices (2) for scoring (iPad, Kindle, phone, etc.). The owner must also agree to allow others to use those devices for the purpose of scoring. Both devices must be capable of running the entire length of the match without entering sleep mode or requiring recharging.

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- h. Damage** – While unlikely, there is the chance that a stray round can impact a microphone, wire, antenna, or system box. By using an E-target in an SSA match, the owner is agreeing to accept this risk. Stray shots may come from shooters squadded on that E-target or from other targets. Either way, neither the Match Director nor SSA can attempt to hold shooters responsible for unintentional damage to E-target systems. (It is hoped that if a shooter knowingly damages another's target that the shooter would accept responsibility and do the right thing to compensate the owner – however SSA cannot require this as it is outside of its control). If you are not willing to accept the risk and potential cost of repairs to your system when used in a match, then refrain from using it in matches.
- i. Squadding** – As is currently done, attempts will be made to accommodate squadding requests. The owner of an E-target will always be squadded to shoot on their own target. However, the squadding of others on that E-target will be solely at the discretion of the Match Director. Preferences about who shoots on your E-target will be considered but cannot be guaranteed.
- j. Scoring** –E-targets are scored just like any paper target; therefore, a scorer must always be present and attentive to each shot fired (especially in the event a shot does not record – see below). Scores can be written on the score card as they are fired as normal (preferred) or all at once at the end of a string by transcribing from the scoring device; but either way, the scorer must be observant of each shot and the score that is registered on the system.
- k. Proper Targets** – It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the proper target face is being displayed on the E-target system. This is especially important in cases where F-class and sling shooters are using the same target. Any shots for record, fired on the wrong target face will be scored as misses.
- l. Target Centers** – It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the changeover of target faces for each yard line, or format, can be done quickly, i.e. hash lines to align repair centers, stacked centers, etc.
- m. Noise/Distractions** – While shooting matches at SSA clearly has a social aspect to it, these are still sanctioned rifle competitions, and will be treated as such. When using E-targets, all shooters are on the line and there is a temptation to converse. Please refrain from having conversations that could be a distraction to shooters on the line.
- n. Ghost Shots** – From time to time, shots can show on E-targets that were not fired by the shooter. Most of the time these shots are echoes from shots fired on adjacent targets. A ghost shot can be determined by: a) if the scorer sees a shot register but did not observe his shooter firing; or b) if the registered shot displays an abnormally high velocity. If either occurs, the scorer should simply ignore the shot and tell the shooter to proceed. The scorer should not delete the shot – leave it on the screen as record of the ghost, but do not record it on the scorecard.
- o. Unrecorded Shots** – From time to time, the E-target systems do not record a properly aimed shot. These occurrences are rare but do still occur occasionally. Most of the time, unrecorded shots are determined to be crossfires. Should your shooter fire and a shot not be recorded, the scorer should immediately attempt to determine if a stray shot was recorded on any nearby targets (call the range officer for assistance with this). If another target has received a shot that its shooter did not fire, then the shot will be recorded as a miss. If no other target received a cross fire, that shot will be scored in accordance with the rules of the match's governing body.
- p. Calibration** – All E-target users must calibrate their targets prior to use in a match.
- q. Membership Requirement** – Anyone wishing to use their own E-target frame during an SSA match must be a member of SSA in good standing.

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- r. Rapid Fire Events – It is suggested that if E-targets are used in XTC matches, they be spaced with at least one target in between them (or a hospital or open target), or use an Odd/Even Target firing sequence to avoid problems.
- s. These procedures are meant as a guideline. Unforeseen circumstances can and most likely will occur. At those times decisions will be made at the discretion of the Match Director.

(Page 8 is the document revision log and may be excluded from this print-out.)

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Document Revision Log			
Revision	Date Approved	Author	Description
0	03/22/13	Rusty West	Original Issue.
1	04/21/20	Tim McGrattan	Removed annual card, RSO certification tracking. Cleaned-up wording/typos. Added E Target Procedures. Significant formatting improvements: Added headers and footers with page numbering and revision log. Changed font for improved readability.
2	5/16/2022	Tim McGrattan	Clarified NRA RSO and CMP Line Officer, Updated Match Fees, Appropriate Target Backing adding Corrugated Plastic, removed match programs from SSA newsletter and website, changed wording on gate entry for matches, adjusted range ropes, added Conex box and Green Lockers, clarifications on the E Target Procedures
3	4/5/2025	Tim McGrattan	Adjusted Match Fees