



Global Benchrest Association Short Range Score Rules

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Website: www.globalbenchrest.com

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OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL BENCHREST ASSOCIATION

The development and encouragement of uniform competition to achieve extreme accuracy in firearms, ammunition, equipment and shooting method.

To standardize on a Global basis the entire Benchrest shooting program so that the targets, ranges, scoring methods, records and match procedures will be uniform and comparable.
To assist and encourage any individual or organization in the promotion of Benchrest Shooting.
To gather and make available to its members pertinent statistics and technical data.

Safe firearms not qualifying under the definition of various classes set out herein, may be fired in any tournament provided the shooters and competitors be informed that he/she is not eligible for any records, awards, prizes or place in the aggregate, and provided that the range facilities are conveniently available. Should any person develop any rifle, and/or equipment that do not meet existing rules and classifications, the rifle or equipment may be submitted to the directors for evaluation and approval or disapproval.

The development and encouragement of uniform competition to achieve extreme accuracy in firearms, ammunition, equipment and shooting method

I. DEFINITIONS

Bench: A bench shall be a rigidly constructed table of a height to permit a shooter of more or less average height to sit at comfortably by increasing or decreasing the height of the stool on which they sit. It shall be constructed to permit firing from either the right or left side equally.

Club: An affiliated Club, as defined in the By-Laws of the Association, or an individual of the Association who owns, leases or controls a range meeting the specifications of a range suitable for holding a Registered Benchrest Tournament may be a Club. Range for Registered Tournaments: A place to shoot not having less than 5 benches on the firing line: it shall have sturdy target frames at measured distances for the firing line not less than 100 yards/meters, preferably 100 and 200 yards/meters, and desirably at 100, 200 and 300 yards/meters. Stationary backers are required only for National tournaments. Ranges laid out in 100, 200 and 300 meters are accepted.

Firing Line: The firing line shall preferably be coincident with the forward edge of the bench. Tournament: A tournament is an orderly program of competitive shooting. The words “shoot” and “meet” are synonymous.

Match: A match is a single event in a tournament.

Registered Tournaments: A tournament authorized by the appropriate office of the GBA and conducted under these Rules and Regulations in accordance with the official tournament procedures approved by the GBA as set forth in Section III of these Rules.

Rests: A front rest shall support the front part of a rifle: a rear rest shall support the rear part of a rifle; neither rest may be attached to the bench, the rifle, or to the other. The rear sandbag shall be a bag or combination of bags containing sand only. Zirconium silicate, known as “heavy sand” is allowed. No other metallic sand can be used. A vertical spacer under the rear bag will be allowed as long it contains no adjustments for windage or elevation. The vertical spacer shall not contain any protrusions, which can be inserted into the bench top or sandbag that sits upon it. The rear sandbag shall not be contained in any manner. The rear sandbag cannot in any way be attached to

the front rest. The front sandbag must be such that the rifle can be easily removed without any front sandbag adjustment. The bag must also be designed to maintain 100% contact with the bottom of the fore-end when in its shooting position. The front bag shall be a minimum of ½ inch thick in the vertical direction within the width of the fore-end. A mechanical or integral support system of the sandbag are allowed, so long as there is no contact with the Rifle or fore-end. The Rifle must be in contact with the Sandbag only!

Guiding Means: Any device, addition, contour or dimension on any rifle of any class, designed or adapted to co-act with mating or reciprocal features of a rest to guide its return to firing position so that it shall not be necessary to re-aim the rifle optically for each shot will be conclusively deemed to constitute guiding means.

Stationary Backers: A Rigid sheet of paper or plastic, typical to the physical properties of corrugated plastic, placed in a firmly anchored support or frame, placed behind the record targets to help establish or determine a crossfire or origin of a crossfire. Distance required is 36” behind the record target at 100 yards/meters, 72” behind the record targets at 200 and 300 yards/meters. Stationary Backers are required at National tournament only.

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II. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Tournaments shall be of two general classes: Registered and Unregistered. Only Registered Tournaments shall be considered for record purposes.

1) REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS

Only clubs affiliated with GBA, which are in good standing, and which have the facilities and equipment required to conduct a shoot under the procedures required by the association may hold registered tournaments. Registered Tournaments shall be held only on dates approved by the Board of Directors or its designee.

2) APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENT DATES

- a. Any Club desiring to hold a Registered Benchrest Tournament shall apply for assignment of a date for such a Tournament.
- b. The application shall be in the form of a contract entitled “Registered Match Contract” signed by the applicant. The application shall be delivered not less than 30 days before the Tournament’s proposed date to the GBA Secretary. The application shall state:
 - i. The name and address of the host club making the application
 - ii. The location of the range on which the tournament is proposed to be held
 - iii. A program of events to be scheduled. GBA match contracts shall include a provision allowing the host club to insert the types of multiple gun aggregates contested.
 - iv. Global Championships are excluded from this provision.
- c. The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall examine the application, consult other tournament schedules, and if the range facilities are approved and no interference with other tournaments exists, shall assign the requested date to the applying club.

3) COMPETITORS

Subject to eligibility rules of the Club conducting the shoot and complying with Registration requirements, any shooter may compete in a Registered Tournament.

4) TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS

National, Regional, State, and Club Matches.

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III. REGISTRATION

All competitors at every Registered Tournament shall be required to complete a registration form supplied by the GBA and to produce, for inspection, a current GBA, or GBA Global membership card. Host Club may waive match fee for first match only. GBA membership is required.

The Host Club shall forward to GBA within four weeks of the Tournament, all registration forms together with a registration fee of two dollars per shooter per class per day.

1) REGISTRATION FEES

a. Each Competitor shall be charged (or have paid on their behalf) a registration fee for each day for each class in which they compete. At its option, The Host Club may charge a registration fee not greater than may be approved by the Directors or may conduct the match and pay the prescribed GBA registration fee at the expense of its own treasury.

b. For Club matches, a Registration fee of \$25 per rifle and yardage for each Day's course of fire in Championship Tournaments is the maximum fee heretofore approved. If more than one rifle and/or more than one yardage are fired in one day an additional registration fee not to exceed \$25.00 may be charged.

c. For National, Regional, and State championship matches the registration fee(s) are determined by the host club/range and Short-Range Score Directors by contract.

d. Any non-member may pay the prescribed annual dues at any Registered Tournament and become a member of the GBA.

e. If any individual shall fail to have a membership card and is unable to furnish reasonable proof of membership by other methods, he/she shall pay, or have paid on their behalf, the GBA membership fee, and upon proof from records that he/she was, on the date of the Tournament, a member in good standing, a refund shall be made to him/her or the Host club as the facts may require.

f. GBA Junior members (17 and under) registration fees shall be set at ½ the fees for adults.

g. Preregistration for GBA championships shall be required at least 30 days in advance of the Championships. Prepayment of fees is not required. However, a written declaration of intent to attend is required. There will be a mandatory late fee of \$10.00 assessed for all registrations received after 30 days prior to the Championship. Should a preregistered competitor be unable to attend, the total fees paid will be refunded.

2) MATCH ENTRY FEES

Clubs holding Registered Tournaments shall determine match fees that are in addition to the Registration fee(s) and the cash or prize awards.

3) RETURN OF REGISTRATION CARDS

All Clubs holding GBA Registered Tournaments must forward to GBA the registration forms of all competitors who shot at the match within four weeks after the tournament and be accompanied by the fees payable to GBA.

4) SELECTION OF RELAYS

Clubs conducting Registered Tournaments have the privilege of permitting competitors to select their relay, but the clubs cannot alter the GBA rule governing bench selection.

5) APPOINTMENT OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- a. In all Registered Tournaments there shall be a Range Officer, Three Referees and an Alternate, a Match Director, and an Official Scorer. The Purpose of the alternate referee is to act in the place of any referee who is shooting and who requests one of their targets to be rescored. Under no circumstances shall a referee judge their own target.
- b. All Officials at Championship Tournaments must be competent in their roles and GBA Rules.
- c. Official, may participate as Contestants in a Championship Tournament in which they are an Official.
- d. Referees must be GBA members in good standing.

6) DRAWING FOR BENCHES

- a. The Host Club through its representative shall conduct a drawing for benches. One of the Referees shall be present to see the drawing is fairly conducted and to represent shooters not present when called upon to draw.
- b. Late Comers must draw their benches by lot in presence of the Match director or Referee.

- c. Clubs have the option of having but one drawing and requiring each competitor to shoot from the same bench for all matches at all ranges or they may allow two drawings-one for matches at the first distance and one for the matches at the second distance.
- d. Having drawn a bench or benches, a competitor will not be permitted to make any further changes in relays or benches, except when through some physical condition a hardship results, in which case the Range Officer may change the assignment of bench or relay or both in such a way as to relieve the hardship.
- e. At National Championship Tournaments a system of bench rotation shall be used, whereby each competitor shall draw by their competitor or bench number for the first event of each day or at each range, and for each following event shall move a predetermined number of benches. They may be assigned the same competitor number for all subsequent events at the same Tournament.
- f. Since rotation of benches is required at GBA Championships and preregistration is also mandatory, the Host Club may draw benches for competitors and assign benches for physical hardships prior to Tournament occurring. This helps to speed up registration the Tournament and reduces complications.
- g. A competitor may identify up to three additional competitors to share bench rotation at the time of bench drawing for flag placement. They must declare the other individual prior to any of the individuals drawing for benches. Pre-registration is encouraged. The Host Club will accommodate the request up to available benches on currently open relays.

7) INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT

- a. A scale with certified or GBA approved weights shall be near the firing line at all Registered Tournaments requiring weight limits on rifles. Competitors may use this equipment prior to and during the matches. A certified weight is one certified by a State Agency or private company offering certified weights.
- b. The Referees shall inspect every rifle on the firing line, preferably as the competitor leaves the firing line, but at the Referees discretion, during the firing of the matches. Referees will conduct random rifle weighing and will inspect rifles and rests to ensure that rifles will be removable from their front rests without lifting any part of the front rest from its contact points with the bench it is occupying. These two checks are the minimum checks that must be done at all GBA registered matches, before or after a tournament has started.

- c. Referees will spot check at their discretion rifle weight, dimensions and rests. An overweight rifle, or one outside the rules dimensionally, or an illegal rest will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the aggregate of the Registered tournament in which the illegal equipment is deemed to have been used.
- d. Certified or GBA approved weights are required at all Registered Tournaments. Scales should have a zeroing pointer. Scales must be balanced and leveled including a 1 oz. error factor. Scales are to be set up in a reasonably permanent location and should remain at this location for the duration of the Tournament.
- e. An official scoring reticle shall be provided by the Host Club and used by the Scorer as needed. No scoring plugs are permitted.

8) PROTEST AND APPEALS

- a. A fee of \$10.00 shall be in place for any target to be rescored. If the target changes score the fee shall be returned to the shooter-otherwise the fee shall be forfeited to the club holding the match. No target may be removed from a "Wailing Wall" or any other designated target display fixture until all protest periods have expired for that Match. Removal of targets from the Wailing Wall or other target display fixtures by any person other than the Referees, Range/Safety Officer, Scorer or Match Director will result in disqualification from the Tournament. Any competitor found altering, manipulating or changing a target to change the scoring results on a target will be disqualified from the Tournament.
- b. Any Competitor in a Registered Tournament, who feels aggrieved at a decision of the Range Officer, or Referees, may before leaving the range on the day the grievance arose, upon payment of \$10.00 appeal the decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the Range Officer. The full written grievance must be mailed to the GBA Chairman and postmarked within 48 hours of the tournament. The statement needs to include.
 - i. Reason for appeal
 - ii. Rule being broken
 - iii. Names of Referees, Range Officer, Scorer, etc.
 - iv. Name of Competitor
 - v. Statement must be signed

- c. The GBA Chairman will investigate the appeal and forward the findings to the Board of Directors whose decision is final. If the appeal is upheld, the protest fee will be returned. If the appeal is overruled, the fee will be forfeited to the GBA.

9) OFFICIAL SCORE BULLETINS

The Tournament Sponsor shall supply every registered competitor with a copy of the official score bulletin which shall be a complete record of all Scores fired and Registered Tournament aggregates. Equipment data shall be listed for a minimum of the top 20 Competitors at Championship Tournaments and top 10 at all other Registered Tournaments. Competitors can receive match results by hard copy or by email.

10) PROGRAMS

Upon receiving assignment of the Tournament date, the Host Club may prepare a program for circulation to interested shooters. Posting of the Tournament dates on the GBA website satisfies this rule. The program shall state:

- a. The name of the Host Club, the location of the Range, and the date of the Tournament. The schedule of Events, and a point of contact for the Tournament.
- b. The amount of the Registration fee.

11) CONDUCT OF TOURNAMENTS (TARGET DETAIL)

- a. The Target detail shall be appointed by the Host Club and shall be under the immediate control of the Target Captain who shall direct the activities of the crew within the authority reposed in the Captain by the Host Club. The Range Officer shall supervise handling of the targets before and after being placed on and taken for the range. The Target Captain shall be charged with the proper marking and identification of every target and its backer. The marking shall be marked on each target in number easily identifiable from the bench. They shall be charged with the orderly placing of targets in the target frames, the orderly removal of targets from the frames and the orderly delivery of targets to the Official Scorer. They shall see that the same order is preserved with respect to the backers. They shall not enter the range except by order of the Range Officer and shall be responsible for removal of the crew from positions of hazard giving the “All Clear” signal to the Range Officer.
- b. The foregoing responsibilities shall be met by the observance of a standard operating procedure, in which they shall be instructed by the Range Officer. The following procedure is suggested: Prior to the Tournament, an estimate of the attendance and an

estimate of the number of the entries in the several classes shall be made. Sufficient targets shall be prepared to provide enough for each relay in each class for the first match.

- c. After completion of bench assignments, the Match Director shall prepare and furnish the Range Officer and the Captain of the Target Detail with a copy of the Range Officer Tally, which shall show which competitor occupies each bench in each relay of each match, thereby furnishing information necessary to complete the identification marking of the targets for matches subsequent to match number one, and to avoid preparing targets for any inactive benches.
- d. The Captain of the Target Detail shall instruct the crew in the theory and practice of keeping targets in order and shall demonstrate on the methods to be followed to ensure this result. The Range Officer shall inspect the target frames, target covers, if any, and the backer system, and see that all defects are corrected prior to a match. A routing entering and leaving the range between relays shall be established and rigidly adhered to.
- e. The Captain shall be the last person to leave the range.
- f. No one is allowed to alter or add to targets, target frames, backers and stationary backers without permission of the match director.

12) PRELIMINARY

- a. It is highly recommended that a prayer for the safety of all shooters and all others present at the range be said before the start of the Tournament.
- b. There may or may not be a ceremony preliminary to the Tournament events. If there is one, the Range Officer will wait until it is over before calling the first relay to the first match. The Target detail may still be on the Range, but the preliminaries do not require an empty range.
- c. General Instruction at each Tournament the following will be read to each relay prior to the first match of the day of the tournament. All competitors for that relay must be at their bench before the range officer can begin to read the safety instructions. Playing a recording of the instructions is acceptable.

The Safety Instructions to be Read are as follows:

1. Bolts and cartridges must always be out of the rifle except between the commands “Commence Fire” and “Cease Fire”. In the loading area only, you may insert a stripped and flagged bolt. Having the bolt in the gun at any other time during the Registered Tournament will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the current match and the remainder of the tournament.
2. A shot fired after the “Cease Fire” will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the current match and the remainder of the aggregate. Any shots fired prior to “Commence Fire” will likewise result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the entire tournament. If I must stop a match prematurely, you will hear an Air Horn or loud Buzzer, then the Command “Cease Fire”. You must leave your rifle alone and wait for follow up commands for further instructions. Any time lost will not be charged against your allotted time, and an extra minute will be added to the remaining time and one minute will be added to your time, not to exceed the original time allotted.
3. At every relay of every match the Range Officer shall announce in exactly these words:
 - i. “This is match number _____ relay number ___ - it is a _____-shot match at _____-yards/meters. You will be allowed _____ minutes to complete your firing. Beginning at two minutes before the time limit shall expire, there will be a final countdown as follows: 2 minutes, 1 minute, 30 seconds, 15 seconds, 5 seconds and cease fire.” Please check your competitor and bench #, and please, check your bores, “Ready on the Right, ready on the Left, Ready on the firing line, commence firing”.
 - ii. In order for the Range Officer and/or Safety Officer to maintain safe control of the firing line, all competitors are to remain seated and quiet at their assigned bench until the Range Officer gives the “Clear the Benches” command
 - iii. When the match time has expired or when the last shooter has finished their string of fire, whichever shall be earlier, the Range Officer will give the following commands: “Cease Fire. Remove your Bolts and remain seated. Show your Bolts over your head”.
 - iv. This applies to anytime that a “cease fire” is called and the benches must be cleared to allow target crew or others down range.
 - v. At this point the Range Officer will visually inspect the firing line, with help from appointed Safety Officers, as appropriate, who will signal the Range Officer that

all bolts are out with a thumbs up sign. Once the Range Officer confirms that the line is safe, they shall command: "Clear the Benches".

- vi. The Range Officer oversees the Target Detail and the Target Detail is not to enter the range until the Range Officer has cleared the firing line and has given the target crew the command to go down range.
- vii. Bolts will be removed from all rifles during the tournament, at all time, except between appropriate commands given by the Range Officer.

13) PREPARATION AND USE OF FORMS

a. The Match Director shall have supervision and control of any forms used in the conduct of the tournament and shall be responsible for all entries made therein. In the event any entry of a scoring figure shall prove to be in error, the Match Director shall make a correction.

- 1) The Basic Form Registration Data (RD), or equivalent heretofore referred to, shall be used in the preparation of all other forms.
- 2) All other Forms should for the sake of uniformity, be obtained from the GBA. Irrespective of the order in which registrants were entered on the form RD, the succeeding forms should list them in the order of bench or target number, thereby reducing the chance of erroneous entry as targets are scored.

b. Additional Club Material: *In addition to the basic form RD and registration cards, the Host Club should have:*

- 1) Identification tags with competitor numbers, bench number and relay.
- 2) Match Director tally giving name and bench number of each contestant of each relay.
- 3) Match and Aggregate Score (M&AS) Posting form in duplicate. The Club shall post score for review by competitors.
- 4) Forms for application for GBA Membership.

14) DUTIES OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

a. Range Officer

They shall conduct the matches and supervise the competitors. They shall direct the actions of the Target Detail while on the range. They shall enforce all Safety rules. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike conduct of a competitor, the Range Officer shall first caution the competitor about their behavior. If the offense is repeated, the result will be disqualification of the offending competitor from the current match and the remainder of the aggregate. Refusal to comply with the Range Officer shall be grounds for barring a competitor from the Range. In the event of any situation arriving (e.g. Act of God), procedures for which are not covered by these rules, the Range Officer has full authority to stop the match and after consultation with the referees, announce a binding decision or procedure, which shall be final and binding. Any such occurrence shall be fully reported to the Board of Directors by the Head Referee for possible remedial legislation. Such report shall be in writing.

b. Referees

The Referees shall inspect the equipment of competitors according to Rule III. 7, Inspection of Equipment, and pass upon whether such equipment complies with the requirements of the class in which the shooter is competing. If found in noncompliance, prior the beginning of the match, the shooter shall be given the right to correct, to shoot in a class in which their equipment does qualify, provided that the shooter has not shot any part of the Registered Tournament or to file a protest and shoot under protest. The Referees shall investigate any complaints of conduct on the range, hardship in the assignment of benches, alleged crossfires and similar matters and shall report their findings to the Range Officer who shall enforce their decision. Shooters are encouraged to have their rifles checked by the referees, prior to the match to check for weight, dimension and proper rifle classification.

c. Official Scorer

The Official Scorer shall have charge of the Target Detail while off the range and shall arrange for the orderly reception of the targets. He shall supervise the work of the scoring detail. He shall collect the scored targets from the scoring detail and enter the scores on form M&AS or into the scoring program. He shall oversee all total subtotals and aggregates, the operation of the computer, the determination and payment of all awards

and the preparation of the Tournament Bulletin. The Official Scorer, or an assistant appointed, shall require each contestant to:

- i. Exhibit appropriate membership card.
- ii. Fill out and sign GBA registration Form.
- iii. Elect the class or classes of competition in which they will compete.
- iv. Pay the appropriate fee or fees.
- v. Indicate which relay is preferred. The data thus obtained, where applicable, should be entered on GBA form RD, and the registration card shall be preparatory to forwarding to GBA.

d. Match Director

Prospective record targets having been properly identified and signed by the match Referees and the Range Officer shall be turned over to the Match Director with duplicate copies of the Record Submission Form on or before the last day of the Tournament in which they were shot. The Match Director shall verify that the information on the Record Submission Form matches that information submitted by the competitor on the competitors' registration card. The Match Director will retain one copy of the Record Submission Form for file and will forward the identified targets with one copy of the Record Submission Form to the Chairperson of Official Measurement Committee.

- i. This section shall govern all disciplines of registered competition. Range measurements stand as the official scores of that match and must be honored in the placement of competitors.
- ii. Records are recognized chronologically, by date only, regardless of match attended or relay participated in. If multiple competitors break a record on a given day, regardless of the match they attended or the relay on which they shot, each one is given full credit for breaking the record (including, but not limited to, GBA record certificate or plaque), and the best score shot on that day is recognized as the record going forward. This rule shall not be retroactive.

15) POSITION ON THE BENCH

In all Registered Tournaments for any class of competition the rifle shall be so placed that the muzzle extends forward of the bench.

16) UNUSED BENCHES

In all Registered tournaments, it shall be required that no contestant shall occupy any bench in a relay in which he/she is not shooting. Violating this rule will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the current match.

17) ELIGIBILITY FOR AGGREGATE

No Shooter who has not satisfactorily completed every target in any aggregate compilation shall be eligible for any award in the aggregate. Ineligibility for one of more aggregates shall not preclude a shooter from winning an award in one or more of the single events.

18) ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

The firing of Registered Tournaments, or any part of thereof under artificial lights is authorized.

19) WIND FLAGS

- a. Official wind flags shall be of any size may be placed by competitors no higher than a line between the highest point of the bench top to bottom of target card.
- b. Personal wind flags will be restricted to within the competitive shooting lane of the competitor placing the flags. A shooting lane is defined as the centerlines between benches to the centerline between the target cards unique to each competitor.
- c. Competitors may place personal wind flags off to the side of the range; that is, left of the left most bench on the range, and/or right of the right-most and right-most bench being used on a given day at the affected tournament.
- e. After the first shot of the aggregate, including warm-up match (should be conducted), Flags may only be moved by Referees under the direction of the Range Officer and in no circumstance shall any flag be moved for the shooter's convenience or benefit for the remainder of the aggregate. If a flag is causing an obstruction for any shooter, range personnel will lay down the flag and pole in question. At any tournament where multiple aggregates are being contested on the same day, flags may be moved and/or adjusted by competitors between aggregates.

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IV. AWARDS

1) Clubs Tournaments

Clubs determine whether they will make cash, prize, or other awards at Club matches.

2) National and Regional Tournaments

The GBA Board of Directors will determine awards for Regional and National Tournaments.

3) Points for Top Gun Award

- a. Records are earned each time the previous record is broken during a season. Each record set by a competitor during the season earns 2 Points for the 2020 season, 3 points for the 2021 season, and 4 points for the 2022 and future seasons.
- b. In order to track how many active shooters we have in GBA, 0.01 points are awarded to each shooter for each yardage and gun in which he/she competes.
- c. Points are earned for finishing in the top three places in all registered matches:

	Number of Shooters		First Place		Second Place		Third Place	
	50+		5		3		1	
	25 to 49		4		2		1	
	10 to 24		3		2		1	
	Less than 10		2		1		0.5	

4) DISPLAY OF TARGETS

Targets at Championships are to be displayed for viewing by competitors. Ranges are to provide protection of targets from elements. This will allow competitors to protest inappropriately scored targets to Referees. No target may be removed from the “Wailing Wall” or any other designated target display fixture until all protest periods have expired for that aggregate. Removal of targets from the “Wailing Wall” or other target display fixtures by any other than the Referees, Range/Safety Officers, Scorer

or Match Director will result in disqualification from the Tournament. Any competitor found altering, manipulating or changing a target to change the official scoring results on a target will be disqualified from the Tournament.

5) RULE BOOK

All Registered GBA Tournaments must have an GBA Rulebook available at the Range.

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V. SAFETY

Note that each range may have additional or somewhat different safety rules. In that event, the rules of the range and host club prevail.

1) OCCUPANCY OF BENCHES

- a. No person shall sit at or be within five feet of any bench during the changes of targets until the Range Officer shall announce, “Competitors” may take their place at their Benches.”
- b. At the discretion of the Host Range, the placing of rifles on rests between matches is allowed provided that the “bolts out” (except between proper commands) rule is retained and only after the Range Officer has called Competitor’s relay to the line.

2) OPEN ACTIONS

All actions shall be open and the bolts removed except on the firing line between the appropriate commands given by the Range Officer (General Instructions)

3) FIRING

- a. No shot shall be fired until the command “Commence Fire” has been given in its entirety nor shall any shots be fired after the “Cease Fire” has been initiated.
- b. Any shots fired prior to “Commence Fire” will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the entire tournament. A shot fired after the “Cease Fire” will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the current match and the remainder of the aggregate. A shot fired once the “Remove your bolts...” command has been started, or anytime thereafter will result in disqualification of the offending competitor from the entire tournament.

4) POSITION OF MUZZLE

The muzzle of every rifle when in firing position shall be in front of the front edge of the bench upon which it rests.

5) EMERGENCY COMMANDS

All competitors must obey at once the command “Cease Fire” and shall not fire again until the command “Resume Fire” is given. In the event that conditions require a suspension of fire, the time of suspension shall not be charged to the time allotted for completion of the relay, an extra one minute will be added to remaining time.

6) SPORTSMANSHIP

There shall be no boisterous conduct on the firing line during the firing of any event. A Rifle Range is no place for pranks and any shooter failing to observe this will be disciplined by the Range Officer.

7) PEOPLE DOWNRANGE

At no time after a registered aggregate has begun will any competitor, other than range personnel, the Range Officer or Referees, be permitted down range until that range aggregate has been completed, except that the area immediately in front of each bench at the firing line may be used to store equipment provided that the equipment may only be accessed during times of cease fire.

8) LOADED CARTRIDGE REFUSING TO ETRACT DURING COMPETITION

The Range Officer has complete control of the firing line at all times, especially in the instance where a competitor’s rifle will not extract a loaded round from the Chamber, or other malfunction that results in either a loaded cartridge or broken case that cannot be extracted by the bolt. Should this occur during competition, the shooter must:

- i. Remove the bolt from the action. If the bolt cannot be removed, the bolt handle must be fully lifted, if possible
- ii. Leave the rifle on its rests and untouched until after the ‘Cease Fire’ command.
- iii. Immediately inform the Range Officer of the situation and report that he/she has a malfunction resulting in a loaded cartridge remaining in the Chamber.

iv. Other than getting up to inform the range officer, the shooter will remain quietly at their bench until the “Cease Fire” is called.

v. After “Cease Fire”, no one shall be allowed in front of the Firing Line or behind the Rifle until the situation has been properly resolved, and it is safe to do so.

vi. The Range Officer may enlist the assistance of the Referees or other qualified persons to assist the shooter to deal with safely removing the loaded cartridge from the chamber.

vii. If the loaded cartridge cannot be removed at the range, the rifle must be cased, but only with the consent of the Range Officer (i.e., the rifle needs the attention of a gunsmith).

viii. Violation of these prescribed safety procedures will result in a disqualification from the Tournament.

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VI. SCORE SHOOTING CLASSIFICATIONS

a. Varmint for Score

A Varmint for Score Rifle is any rifle having a safe manually operated firing mechanism that weighs no more than thirteen and one half (13.5) pounds, inclusive of sights. Any sight will be permitted. The stock should have a flat or convex forearm not more than 3 inches wide and having a toe formed by a straight line drawn from the toe of a substantially vertical butt with a 13-1/4" pull starting at a point at least 4 inches below the axis of the bore and extending forward to the centerline of the barrel at a point no more than 18 inches forward of the Bolt face forming an acute angle and no portion of the butt stock should extend below this acute angle. The barrel shall not be less than 18" long forward of the bolt face and a diameter of not more than 1.250 inches from the bolt face forward 5 inches. From said 5-inch point, the diameter shall not be greater than would be defined by a straight taper between such point and a muzzle diameter of .900 at 29 inches. The barrel may be attached to the receiver, bedding blocks or sleeve or combination thereof for a distance of no more than 4", measured from the face 5 of the bolt. The overall length of the receiver, bedding block or sleeve or the combination must not exceed 14". (Maximum dimensions shall not include normal scope blocks or sight bases). A metal skeleton frame that serves as a stock and has a fore end that may or may not attach to the barrel and meets all other requirements of a Heavy Varmint rifle is permissible (i.e. Beggs Stick Gun). Any "Savage Type" barrel nut shall be considered as part of the action and therefore shall be legal in all NBRSA Classes.

Remington 40 XB stocks as produced, may be used without alteration, provided there is no interaction between the fore-end and sand bag that would constitute a guiding means. Electric triggers are allowed. No additions or attachments shall be added to the barrel, with the exception of a scope shade. (such as those used in competition over the history of the GBA), which are attached to the barrel by the means of tape, Velcro, or glue, or a tuner as described below.

Tuners are allowed for Varmint for Score and Hunter Rifles provided the tuner is securely threaded to the muzzle of the barrel and does not have venting ports that direct gas back toward the shooter. The tuner may be adjusted during a match only while the shooter is seated with the bolt removed from the rifle. The tuner is exempt from barrel diameter restrictions noted above.

b. Hunter Rifle

Hunter rifle stocks must conform to the requirements established for the Heavy Varmint rifle with the following additional requirements:

- i. The maximum width is 2.255 inches (as measured with calipers, inclusive of any “stock tape”). Re-barreling, restocking and special triggers permitted. Operating safeties are optional.
- ii. Bolt Action receivers shall be no larger in diameter than 1.4 inches and no longer than 10.5 inches. (this does not mean to exclude any large quantity produced receivers) Projections on diameter not included such as recoil lugs, sight bases, safety and/or similar items.
- iii. A Hunter barrel shall not be less than 18 inches long. The breech end of the barrel may be no larger in diameter than 1.25”, The barrel shall have a straight taper beginning no more than 4” ahead of the bolt face and ending at the muzzle. Taper may not be less than the taper defined as .835” in diameter at the muzzle if the barrel were 24” long. Original factory issue barrels need not meet these specifications. However, any rechambering or re-barreling, with new or original barrel would then require that the factory issue barrel meet the above taper specifications.
- iv. No blocking or sleeving of action or barrel will be allowed, and barrel and action must be removable from the stock without destruction of the stock. Nothing may be fastened to the barrel except sights, sight bases, and original manufacturer’s attachments, with the exception of tape, paper, plastic or other similar material used for sole purpose of deflection heat waves. Tuners are allowed in the Hunter rifles.
- v. Any sights are allowed. Scopes must be of 6 power or less. Variable power scopes must be set and tapped.
- vi. Magazines are not required, but actions must be cut out for a magazine. Such a cutout must be large enough to pass the cartridge the rifle is chambered for. Cartridge for this purpose shall mean the cartridge as ordinarily configured, including the seated bullet, when held parallel to the bore. A cartridge follower or ramp may be installed and may not be attached permanently to the action in any way, by any means.
- vii. Rifle and Scope shall not exceed 10 pounds in weight. Clubs shall allow a one (1) ounce scale error factor.

viii. Any centerfire rifle cartridge conforming to other Score Shooting Specifications shall be permitted. (See Section V. B Classifications above)

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c. Factory Rifle

A factory rifle is defined as any standard production rifle - not a custom shop rifle – with a Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) maximum of \$2000.

For Factory Class competitions, the rifle and rests must conform to the following rules:

- i. Commercial bolt action - commercially produced rifle, using the commercially installed action, factory installed barrel, and factory stock. A new barrel may be installed provided it is done by the factory who manufactured the rifle
- ii. No stock modifications except that the action and up to 2 inches of the breech end of the barrel may be glass bedded.
- iii. Any safe trigger may be installed in the rifle
- iv. Any scope may be used.
- v. Front rests may be used provided the rifle stock has not been modified or augmented in any way where the stock contacts the front rest. No one-piece rests.
- vi. Monopods and Bipods are legal; in which the fore-end of the stock may be modified.
- vii. A rear sand bag and front pedestal authorized
- viii. No mechanical rear rests. Rear rests must be a sandbag type rear rest.
- ix. Sling swivels and sling swivel screws may be removed from the stock
- x. Maximum rifle weight is 17 pounds, weighed in the as-fired configuration, including any bi-pod or mono-pod.
- xi. No modification of the factory action or factory barrel may be made, except that a muzzle brake may be installed. The barrel may be removed from the action to thread and install the muzzle brake. Head spacing may not be changed from the factory head spacing.

xii. The action/barrel may not be re-chambered or be modified in any way.

xiii. Silencers, suppressors, or other components may not be added to the as-produced factory configuration unless specifically noted above.

xiv. A tied-on or taped-on cheek riser may be used.

xv. One layer of bench rest stock tape may be installed on the fore end and toe end of the stock.

xvi. A bag rider may be installed on the butt stock of a chassis rifle.

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d. Tactical Rifle

For Tactical Class competition the rifle and rest must conform to the following rules:

- i. A tactical rifle is essentially a custom-built rifle that is single shot or has an external or internal magazine.
- ii. In competition, the rifle must be fired single shot.
- iii. Any bolt action
- iv. Any barrel
- v. Any scope
- vi. Flat stock fore ends less than 2 1/4" wide are allowed when using a front rest. When using a front rest with a fore end wider than 2 1/4", there may be no vertical flat sides on the stock, and the bottom of the stock must be radiused.
- vii. Glass bedding of the action and up to 2 inches of the breech end of the barrel
- viii. No one-piece rest
- ix. Monopods and Bipods are legal provided the stock complies with the rules above.
- x. Muzzle Brakes, suppressors, and other barrel modifications are allowed except that clam shell type muzzle devices are not permitted.
- xi. No mechanical rear rests. Rear rest must be a sandbag type rest.
- xii. Maximum weight is 27 pounds, weighed in the as-fired configuration, including any bipod or monopod
- xiii. Any safe trigger is allowed.

VII. COURSES OF FIRE

Warm-up matches are required at first yardage only, at all registered tournaments. The following chart summarizes the Score Aggregate recognized by the GBA:

Score Registered Aggregates			
Targets	Shots per	Distance	Classes
5	5	100 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
5	5	200 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
5	5	300 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
5	5	100 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
5	5	200 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
5	5	300 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
Score Registered Grand Aggregates			
10	5	100/200 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
10	5	200/300 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
15	5	100/200/300 Yds.	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
10	5	100/200 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
10	5	200/300 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
15	5	100/200/300 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
Score Championship Grand Aggregates			
10	5	100/200 Yards	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
10	5	100/200 Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC
10	5	200/300 Yards, Meters	VFS,HTR,FAC,TAC

Matches are to be fired separately with at least twenty minutes elapsing from end of relay to the start of the same relay in the next match, if required by the competitors.

For all Club, State, Regional, and National matches the Match Director will determine whether 7 minutes or 10 minutes will be uniformly allowed for each target, including warm up targets. The Match Director may determine that warm up targets will not be

shot in which case he will determine an additional number of minutes that will be uniformly allowed for the first target at each yardage and for each rifle class.

Targets (100, 200 and 300 Yard) for Score shooting to be GBA approved.

VIII. RULES FOR PROCEDURE

Rules of procedure as outlined in Section III of this rulebook are to be used with the following additions

- a. Rifles shall be fired from Benches on nonconforming pliable sandbags, both front and rear. Adjustable pedestals with sandbags under forearms are permitted. Blocks, boxes or such to raise sandbags to get proper elevation are permitted. No machine or other rests (guiding means) that can return rifle to battery or which retard recoil will be allowed.
- b. Any change in the program must be posted in advance of the first relay of any match.
- c. Rotation of a specified number of benches after each individual match shall be used at GBA National Championship Tournaments. Some form of Bench rotation will be used at Grand Aggregate Tournaments. The type of rotation will be at the discretion of the Host Club. Stationary Backers will be used at all National Tournaments.
- d. In case of malfunction of the original rifle, a replacement rifle of the same class may be used. However, the competitor must complete the match in the time allotted.
- e. Aggregate Score will be posted at the end of the last match of each tournament, and a 30-minute protest period will then be announced to all competitors after the scores are posted. If a competitor has a scoring protest, a fee of \$10.00 will be paid to the Match Director and/or Range Officer, and the protest will be reviewed by the Referees assignee for that aggregate. If the results agree with the protestor, the \$10.00 will be refunded. If not, the \$10.00 will be turned over to the Host Club, and the score ruling stands. All targets will remain available for inspection until the end of the protest period.
- f. Coaching of new and young shooters is permitted but limited to the discretion of the Referees.

g. Firing of more than one rifle in different classes is permitted, but only one rifle may be fired in any one class. Firing multiple yardages in the same class with the same rifle is allowed.

h. Any special Range Rules are to be announced at time of the Competitor Meeting (i.e. no guns on rests while target detail is on the range, special firing times, no alcohol etc.)

IX. SCORING

a. There are no alibi's. All shots in record bulls will be scored except as noted below.

b. When shot placement cannot be determined by visual inspection, an GBA approved reticule will be the only device utilized using the outside diameter of the scribed mark per the caliber used to determine score based on the best edge. The target shall be placed on a flat surface in a well illuminated area. The Scorer shall determine if the referees are needed to decide the shot placement. If the Referees are utilized, the letters "RR" will be placed on the target square in question. If the Scorer can determine the proper score alone, the letter "R" will be placed on the target square which was scored.

c. When an identifiable crossfire occurs on another competitor's target, the low value or identifiable shot shall be transferred to the offenders' target and a penalty of one point deducted. A competitor who shoots a crossfire must not fire on his or her own record bull. To do so may result in disqualification; if it is determined that this was an attempt to conceal a crossfire.

d. If no identifiable crossfire has occurred, an empty bull is scored as a "O" and is not a disqualification.

e. If there is more than one shot on a record bull, and no identifiable crossfire has occurred, the lowest shot on the bull will be scored.

f. Any shot that touches the sighter bounding box on a 100, 200 or 300 yard/meter score target is to be counted as sighter shot.

g. Any competitor found shooting on an unassigned/ incorrect relay will receive a penalty of a 50-point loss.

h. If a competitor cross fires twice during a match it an automatic disqualification.

i. Ties

i. Match Ties

- (a) Match winners are to be decided by score, then score plus “X” count, then miss and out starting with bull number one and continuing through bull number five.
- (b) Miss and Out is the dropping of an “X”, 10, 9, etc.
- (c) If a match is still tied, it is broken by the Miss and Out system of the next match.
- (d) In match 5 the yardage aggregate placing breaks a tie.

ii. Aggregate Ties

To break a tie in the aggregate, go to the first match and break the tie by score, then by score plus “X” count. If the tie still exists go to match 2, match 3, match 4, and match 5. If the tie is still not broken, use the “Miss and Out” system starting with bull number one on match one and proceed until the tie is broken.

iii. Grand Aggregate Tie

To break a Grand Aggregate tie, go the range aggregate of the first yardage completed. Use the highest score to break the tie. If tie is not broken, go to the first match of first yardage completed and break tie by score and then by score plus “X” count. The use match 2, 3, 4 and 5 if necessary. If this does not break the tie proceed to the matches fired for the second aggregate, in the event this fails, return to match one, bull number one, of the first yardage and use the Miss and Out system. Proceed until the tie is broken.

X. Records

The GBA Board of Directors will administer a records program for Varmint for Score, Hunter, Factory, and Tactical classes at each of 100, 200, and 300 yardages.

XI. Other Awards

The GBA Board of Directors will administer a program to recognize perfect scores 250, 500, and 750 scores for each rifle class.