

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Project Highpower Sporter Rifle Rules (2024)

The national governing body for the High Power Sporter Rifle event rules are the NRA High Power Sporting Rifle Rules (<http://compete.nra.org/official-nra-rule-books.aspx>). These rules are used with modifications in 4-H activities and events as stated below. The following rule set supersedes all other rules where differences exist. General 4-H Shooting Sports Project Rules cover all shooting disciplines. In 4-H events, event specific rules and regulations supersede other governing body rules where differences exist. Coaches, parents, and 4-H shooters are encouraged to be familiar with each of these rule sets.

1. SHOOTER AND COACH RESPONSIBILITY

1.1 Safety

Shooters and coaches are responsible for understanding and practicing the rules of safe firearms handling. The highest standards of safety are to be followed at all times.

1.2 Behavior and sportsmanship

The spirit of 4-H sportsmanship and appropriate behavior is expected of all participants in the 4-H shooting sports program.

1.3 Knowledge of procedures and rules

Shooters and coaches will make effort to understand the procedures used in each event and comply with the rules, standards, and intent of the events. Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or ignorance. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not anticipate, prevent, or make unnecessary their existence. Shooters are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

1.4 Eligibility

It is the shared responsibility of the shooter and his/her coach to determine that all eligibility requirements for participation in the shoot have been met.

1.5 Reporting

Shooters are responsible for knowing the proper time to report for each event and appropriate relay with equipment and materials necessary for completion of the event. They are also responsible for reporting in a timely fashion for any announced orientation programs and for observing progress in their events in order to be prepared early if shooting proceeds at a rate faster than the posted times. Shooters should be prepared to take the field a minimum of 45 minutes ahead of their posted firing time.

1.6 Required Orientation

Where an orientation is required (as in the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Championships) any shooter failing to attend the orientation will be disqualified from events during that day unless they are able to make up the orientation. No guaranteed availability of such make-up sessions is required. It is the shooter's responsibility to attend and receive the evidence of that attendance.

1.7 Timing

The shooter is responsible for knowing and abiding by all-time limitations for firing any string of shots.

1.8 Checking scores

Each shooter is responsible for checking the scoring and mathematics of their individual score cards or targets. **Only** the shooter may review these cards or targets. Some events may allow an official to assist any shooter wishing to review their cards or targets.

1.9 Clearing the firing point.

Each competitor must leave the firing point promptly at the completion of his/her relay. Rifles must be unloaded, magazines, if present, released, actions open and an open bolt indicator in place. Rifles shall be cased prior to removal from the firing point.

1.10 Electronic Devices

NO electronic devices on the line. Including but not limited to smart phones, electronic ear buds, smart watches, any communications device, etc.

Exception: A dedicated timer for keeping track of time with no other functions.

1.11 Clear Bore Indicator:

Clarification: the terms clear bore indicator (CBI), Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI), Safety Flag, Open Bolt Indicator (OBI) are all interchangeable terms that may be used for a safety device that is inserted into the chamber and barrel to indicate the firearm is unloaded and safe. A CBI may be as simple as weed eater string or factory purchased flags such as available from CMP, NRA, or firearm manufactures. Should be a bright color that contrasts with the firearm action and stock.

2. Disallowed Equipment

Any firearm built or modified to give the distinct impression of a modern military style firearm such as an AR or AK is not allowed in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Listed below are visual examples of, but not limited to, firearms that resemble those not allowed. Examples of unacceptable firearm components include: any type of muzzle devices (muzzle brake, recoil compensator, suppressors, porting), front pistol grips, heat shield/shroud, and magazines extending more than 1 inch below the receiver.



3.1 High Power Sporting Rifle

Any safe centerfire rifle, not equipped with a palm rest or Schuetzen type butt plate, weighing not more than 9.5 pounds including detachable magazine and sights but excluding any sling. Typical straight or monte carlo type stocks.

a. Traditional Hunting Rifles Only

Traditional Hunting Rifles are typically bolt action, but semi-automatic rifles may be used unless otherwise restricted by posted or written rules. Shooters are responsible for making sure their ejected brass does not interfere with other shooters.

- Bolt action rifles must function well enough to be used in the rapid-fire strings.

- A Traditional Hunting Rifle must have a safe action within the 9.5-pound maximum weight limit including sights/optics.
- The trigger pull weight can be no less than 2 pounds.

b. Barrel Devices

Devices on the end of the barrel, including but not limited to muzzle brakes, compensators, flash hiders, suppressors(silencers), ported barrels, etc. are Strictly Prohibited/NOT ALLOWED. A thread protector not exceeding the diameter of the barrel is allowed.

c. Barrel

Lightweight Alloy or Sleeved (such as: Carbon Fiber) barrels are not allowed in any class!

d. Tactical/Military

Tactical or Military issue firearms are Prohibited.

3.3 (Blank)

3.4 Clothing

All clothing must be made of flexible material that does not materially change its physical characteristics under commonly accepted shooting conditions.

3.4.1 Clothing – Specifications

- a.) No shooting jackets permitted
- b.) No shooting trousers permitted
- c.) No Shotgun Vest permitted.
- d.) A work type glove may be used on the off-hand. May not provide support at or below the wrist!
- e.) A maximum of two unaltered sweatshirts may be worn during firing.
- f.) Normal Street type or light athletic shoes are permitted so long as they do not exceed the top of the ankle. Boots may slip on, or laces loosened above the ankles. Shooting boots/shoes are not permitted. Shoes/Boots shall be a matched pair and may not be designed or altered in any way so as to provide artificial support.
- g.) no pads, braces, or elastic bandages will be allowed

3.5 Sights

a. Metallic sights

Metallic sights are defined as any sighting system made of metal or equivalent materials that provide a means of aligning two separate, visible sights or reference points mounted on the rifle. Corrective sights as defined in NRA Smallbore Rule 3.7 a (2) may be used.

b. Telescopic

A telescopic sight is any sighting system including a lens or lenses and an aiming reference or reticle within the lens system.

c. Any

Any sight is a sight without restriction on the type or construction.

d. Prohibited Sights

Any sighting device that activates the firing mechanism or projects an image on the target is prohibited.

Note that visually impaired individuals may use a sight that projects an image and have a spotter to assist them in aligning the dot with the target.

3.6 Spotting Scope

The use of a telescope or other optical device to spot shot is permitted. It may be positioned forward of the shooter's forward shoulder.

3.7 Shooting kits

The use of a shooting stand is encouraged in 4-H position rifle shooting. The stand aids in safety and reduces fatigue by permitting rest between shots. The shooting stand, kit or table may be placed down range of the shooter's

forward shoulder during the standing stage of 3-position shooting, but it may not be of a size, shape, construction, or placement to interfere with other shooters.

3.6 – 3.9 (Blank)

3.10 Ground cloth

A ground cloth or shooting mat may be used providing it is not constructed or used in a way that provides artificial support. Shooting mats may not exceed 49.2 X 78.7 inches (1.25 x 2 meters) in width and length. Mats may be up to 1.9 inches (5 cm) thick and must be composed of soft and flexible materials.

3.11 Gloves:

Gloves which do not form an artificial support may be worn, except in light rifle or silhouette events. (Typical work glove) Gloves appropriate to the weather conditions may be worn as clothing.

3.12 Slings

Unless otherwise specified in the match program, a hunting/speed sling may be used with the rifle stock and one arm only to steady the rifle **except** in the standing position. A hunting/speed sling is attached at both ends of the stock. (2 mounting points) Precision type (attached at the forearm) are not permitted.

3.13 Palm rest

Not Permitted. Use of an extended magazine for artificial support Not Permitted.

3.14 Kneeling roll

A cylindrical cushion of soft and flexible material and not exceeding 9.84 inches (25 cm) in length and 7.08 inches (18 cm) in diameter may be used in the kneeling position.

3.15 Schuetzen butt plates

Hooked butt plates of this design Not Permitted

3.16 Ammunition

b. Any

Standard sporting rifle ammunition may be used. Armor piercing, incendiary or monolithic bullets may not be used in this event. The use of handloaded ammunition is **NOT** permitted. Factory loaded ammunition in original packaging only!

3.17 Open Bolt Indicator

An open bolt indicator is required in all 4-H competitions to indicate the bolt is open and chamber is clear. Must be inserted into the chamber and be visible outside of the chamber.

4. TARGETS

Sporter High Power Targets

100-yard targets - The NRA SR-1 target is used in this event. The SR-1 has an x-ring measuring 1.35 inches with black scoring areas measuring to the edge of the 9 ring (6.35 inches). The outer white scoring ring (5-ring) on the target measures 18.35 inches.

5. SHOOTING POSITIONS

5.1 The Ground

This defines the surface of the firing point or any coverings that do not provide an artificial means of support.

5.2 Artificial support

Any support not specifically authorized, including modifications of the ground to provide support for the elbows, arms, or legs.

5.3 Rifle butt position

In all positions the butt of the rifle must be supported on the front of the shoulder, outside the jacket or shirt and not touching the ground.

5.4 Rifle magazine

- The rifle magazine may touch the shooter or his or her clothing, but it may not contact the ground or be used as a means of providing additional support. (Fingers and or Palm may not touch the Magazine)
- Maximum Round count at any time is 5 rounds loaded.
- Maximum Count per stage will be based on age group the competition. (Juniors: 5 rounds Intermediates/Seniors: 4 rounds)

5.5 Physically handicapped shooters

Shooters with physical handicaps that make it impossible to shoot from the specified positions may petition for permission to use modified equipment or positions. Thorough explanation and photographic evidence of the position and reasons for using it are required.

5.5.1 Temporary disabilities and substitute positions

Any person with a temporary physical disability preventing them from shooting in a given position, upon presentation of evidence and permission of the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator or match coordinator, may be permitted to substitute the next more difficult position, for example, standing for kneeling.

5.6 Prone

Body extended on the ground with the head facing the target and the rifle supported by the shoulder and both hands. The forearm supporting the forearm of the rifle must form a minimum angle of 30 degrees to the ground. No part of the arm below the elbow may rest on the ground or any artificial support.

5.7 Sitting

The weight of the body is supported on the buttocks and the feet or ankles with no other part of the body touching the ground. The rifle is supported by one shoulder and both hands only. The elbows may rest on the legs at any point above the ankles.

5.8 Kneeling

Body is supported on one knee and one foot with the buttocks clear of the ground but resting on one foot. The elbow of the forward arm may rest on the upright knee or leg. The elbow of the shooting arm is free from all support. A kneeling roll may be placed under the instep of the supporting foot provided that the foot is placed toe-down at an angle not more than 45 degrees from the vertical and the toe making contact with the ground. If the kneeling roll is not used, the foot may be placed in any position, including having the lower leg and foot flat on the ground.

5.9 Standing

Erect on both feet with no other portion of the body touching the ground or any supporting surface. Use of the sling is not permitted, and the rifle must be supported by both hands and the

shoulder only. The elbow or upper arm of the forward hand may be placed against the body or supported on the hip.

6. RANGE STANDARDS

6.1 Firing line

The firing line is immediately in front of the firing points. All measurements of range are taken from the firing line to the face of the target.

6.2 Firing points

The part of the range provided for the shooter immediately behind the firing line.

6.4 Shooting distance

The shooting distance is measured from the firing line to the target face. The shooter may place his or her forward foot or elbow up to the firing line.

6.6 Target and firing point identification.

Targets and firing points will be marked with numbers to indicate their position. Target numbers should be large enough to be read with the unaided eye under normal conditions.

6.9 Wind flags

Outdoor ranges may display wind indicator flags at appropriate intervals. Wind indicator flags will be of a light material (strips of cloth or surveyor's tape) of any bright color except red or orange.

7. COURSES OF FIRE

7.1 Courses of fire

The courses of fire listed here are those currently in use by the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program. A modification of these courses of fire is permissible as long as the course of fire is listed in the bulletin or announcement of the event.

a. Sporter High Power Match

The following courses of fire are standard for Texas 4-H shooters in the sporter high power matches.

1) Juniors

Junior shooters will fire slow fire only, firing 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting or kneeling, and 5 shots standing for a total of 15 record shots.

2) Intermediates

Intermediate shooters will fire 8 shots prone slow fire, 8 shots standing slow fire, 4 shots sitting or kneeling rapid fire and 4 shots prone rapid fire for a total of 24 record shots.

3) Seniors

Senior shooters will fire a standard high power sporting rifle course consisting of 32 shots: 8 shots prone slow fire, 8 shots standing slow fire, 8 shots sitting or kneeling rapid fire, and 8 shots prone rapid fire. Rapid fire stages will be fired in two 4-shot timed series.

b. Modifications of rules for specific events

Rule modifications may be announced in the bulletins of specific events, like the 4-H Shooting Sports Extravaganza.

8. TIME LIMITS

8.1 Running Time

In nearly all 4-H events, time is computed as a running total. Times for individual shots are not observed, but a total time is allotted for firing an entire record string, bank of targets, stage, or match. The shooter is responsible for pacing their shooting to meet the time limitations.

a. Precedence of posted limits

Posted time limits supersede standard NRA time limits for each event.

8.2 Time allowances

One (1) minute per record shot is allowed in slow fire stages, and 30 seconds are permitted for each 4-shot string in the rapid-fire stages. Shooters will be in firing position when the **Start** or **Commence Firing** command is given.

8.4 Shooter Responsibility

Shooters are responsible for knowing the posted time limits for each event and for pacing their shooting to the time limits. Range officers may be asked about the passage of time or time remaining, but they are not charged with doing so.

9. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

9.1 Changing rifles

Rifles or parts thereof may be changed during the firing of a match **only** if the rifle has been declared disabled by the range officer. The claim of a disabled rifle must be made immediately, and all shots prior to the claim will be counted as record shots.

9.2 Fouling and sighting shots

Where permitted, all fouling or sighting shots must be made after the command to commence firing has been given.

9.2.1 Misplaced sighting shots

If the first sighting shot falls outside the guard ring of the sighting bulls, the competitor must stop immediately and notify the range officials. Once noted, the shot will be labeled as a sighting shot and discounted in the scoring.

9.3 (Blank)

9.4 Defective cartridge

Any cartridge that has an evident structural defect that may cause a misfire or rifle malfunction, which fails to fire, or which results in a bullet remaining in the barrel is a defective cartridge. The shooter must notify the range officer immediately in the event of a defective cartridge. The competitor will be allowed to clear the jam or replace the cartridge and continue to fire. Time lost because of a defective cartridge will be added to the competitor's allotted time. (NRA rule 10.9)

9.5 Disabled rifle

A rifle that cannot be safely and accurately aimed or fired, including one on which the sights were damaged or lost or one that has suffered mechanical problems that cause it not to function properly may be declared disabled. The shooter will be permitted to repair or replace the rifle and complete the firing during the time that was left when the rifle became disabled. (High Power Rule 10.9)

9.6 Malfunction

Failure to fire due to mechanical defects or faulty ammunition is termed a malfunction. The range officer must be notified immediately of a malfunction. Time may be added to the shooter's allotment for time lost due to a malfunction or the shooter may be permitted to re-fire those targets not already shot.

9.7 (Blank)

9.8 Weighing Triggers

Triggers may be weighed with official trigger mechanism, at the discretion of the Match Director. Failure of the trigger to meet the trigger pull requirements shall disqualify the rifle. Competitors will be permitted to adjust triggers which have failed to pass the weight test provided they do not occasion any delay. Failure of the trigger to pass the weight test is the competitor's responsibility.

9.9 Shooter position

Shooters must take their positions at their assigned firing points without interfering with shooters on either side of

them. No part of the shooter's body may rest on the ground forward of the firing line.

9.10 Coaching

Where rules permit, coaches may spot for and advise their shooters to help them shoot to the best of their ability. Coaches may not touch the shooter or handle any of their equipment after the preparation period has been completed or after the shooter has taken a position on the firing line **except** at the direct instruction of the range officer.

a. Coaching in individual matches

Coaching is **NOT** permitted in individual matches.

9.13 Interference

No competitor, coach, or bystander may interfere with other shooters or shoot officials in the conduct of their affairs, either on the range or in the handling of targets. Firing lines and points must be kept clear and conversations will be limited to those required to conduct the business at hand during the firing of a match.

9.18 Disturbance of competition

No shooter, coach, or bystander will deliberately disturb another during the firing of a shot. If a competitor feels that he/she was disturbed during any shot, the individual will immediately put down their rifle and notify the range officer without disturbing other shooters. If the claim is considered justified, the shot will be disallowed, and the competitor will be allowed to repeat the shot. If it is not considered justified, the shot will be credited to the shooter.

9.25 Crossfire and excessive hits

No competitor will fire on the wrong target or fire more than the required number of record shots, including those on another shooter's target. Cross fires will be disallowed on the target hit and counted as misses for the shooter firing them.

9.27 Disorderly conduct

Disorderly conduct or the use of alcohol or other controlled substances on the grounds of any 4-H event is strictly forbidden. Anyone guilty of such behavior will be disqualified from the event(s) and expelled from the range with forfeiture of any entry fees.

9.27.1 Destruction of range equipment

No shooter will willfully damage range equipment. Anyone doing so will be expelled from the competition.

10. RANGE CONTROL AND COMMANDS

Standard range safety and operation commands are essential in 4-H Shooting Sports events. Range commands as listed in section 10 of the NRA rule manuals, 4-H basic or expanded range commands as outlined in the appendices of the 4-H Shooting Sports Guide, Range control and safety are the **primary** concern of range staff.

10.1 Discipline

The safety of competitors, range staff and spectators depends upon continuous attention to all safe firearms handling principles by all persons on or about the range. Self discipline is the foundation of safety, and if it is lacking, it is the responsibility of range personnel to enforce range discipline. It is the duty and responsibility of all persons on the range to assist in this process.

10.1.1 Actions open

No rifle shall be picked up or handled until authorized by appropriate command. Open bolt indicators are **required** on all rifles. All actions will remain open and exposed to inspection except when actively engaged in firing or dry firing under direct command of the range officer. Under **no circumstances** will careless handling be permitted.

10.1.2 Rifles Unloaded

No rifle will be loaded until shooters are in position with the rifles pointed down range and the commands **Commence Firing, Ready or Load** have been given.

10.1.3 Rifles Loaded

Any firearm with its action closed will be considered loaded and must be pointed down range (in a safe direction) at all times.

10.1.4 a Cease Firing

Upon the command CEASE FIRE, all rifles must be immediately unloaded, magazines (if present) removed, and the rifles made safe with the actions open.

10.1.4 b Commence Firing

All shooters may start firing upon the command "Commence Firing" as the timing of the string is started with this command. "*Commence*" is the preparatory part of the command and "*Firing*" is the action part of the command. No shot will be fired before the "firing" is spoken.

10.1.5 Not ready

Competitors who are not ready to fire at the time the range officer asks, "**is the line ready**" must notify the range officer by stating "**not ready on ___**" and include their firing point or target number.

10.1.6 Loading in slow fire

In slow fire events or stages, rifles will be loaded with only one cartridge at a time.

10.1.7 Loading in rapid fire

At the command to load, competitors will load the required number of rounds for that stage or part thereof. The bolt will remain open until the appropriate position is assumed.

10.4 Policing the range.

Competitors are responsible for policing their firing points at the end of each stage or match under the supervision of the range staff.

10.6 Repeating commands

Other range staff will repeat commands of the range officer only when the commands cannot be heard clearly by the competitors under the Chief Range Officer's supervision.

10.7 Firing Line procedures and Commands

a. Relay (#) Match (name) on the firing line

The shooters move to the firing line with their equipment and take their positions at the appropriate firing point.

b. Go forward and hang your targets

Shooters will move forward to the target frames and hang their targets.

c. The preparation period starts now

After shooters have returned to the firing line, this is announced. Shooters may handle their equipment, dry fire and prepare for live firing during this three-minute period. The range officer verifies that the shooters are on the proper firing points with targets properly hung.

d. The preparation period has ended

At the end of the three-minute preparation period, the range officer announces its ending. before moving on to the following commands.

e. Is the line ready?

Any competitor who is not ready to fire must reply by stating not **ready on** (firing point number), and the range officer will state **the line is not ready**.

f. The line is ready, commence firing, you have (#) minutes.

Once the problems have been fixed and the line is ready, the range officer will declare the line ready, issue the commence firing command and state the amount of time for the stage or match being fired. Competitor may load and fire after the command **commence firing** had been issued.

g. Cease firing, make the line safe.

At the completion of the time period or upon completion of firing by all competitors, the range officer will stop all firing with the **cease firing** command. Each shooter will immediately stop firing, open the action, release the magazine (if present), and place the rifle on the shooting mat with the action open and visible

h. Is the line safe?

If all rifles are grounded, cleared, and have their actions open, the range officer will declare the line safe. If not, he/she will state **the line is not safe, stand easy** and see to any problem that makes the line remain hot. Once it has been resolved, the line will be declared safe.

i. The line is safe, go forward and replace your targets.

No one may touch or handle a rifle while there is anyone down range.

j. Unsafe condition

Anyone who observes an unsafe condition or the potential for injury to any living animate thing down range must call **Cease fire**.

k. As you were.

This command means to disregard the immediately preceding command.

l. Carry on.

This command means to continue with whatever was taking place prior to an interruption.

m. Firing sequence

Only one shot is fired at each record bull unless otherwise specified in the shoot program. It is the shooter's responsibility to keep track of his/her shots and to fire no more than one shot at each record bull.

10.12 Target mounting

Shooters may be required to mount their own targets properly. Fired targets will be collected immediately by range officials.

10.13 Procedure in case of a loose or fallen target.

If a target falls or is blown loose so that the shooter can no longer fire at it, the shooter (or coach) will immediately notify the range officer. The range officer at his/her discretion may cease firing to re-hang the target, wait until the end of the stage or relay before permitting the shooter to re-hang the target and complete the firing, or re-squad the shooter. All shots fired prior to the problem count, and the shooter will be permitted one minute for each shot that remains to be fired.

14. SCORING

14.1 Scoring times

Targets may be scored as designated by shoot management, but usually will be scored after each relay has completed their course of fire on the range.

14.2 Scoring location

Scoring will be accomplished at the locations designated by shoot management, either on the range or in the statistical office.

14.3 How to score.

Each shot will be scored by the location of the bullet hole on the target surface. The innermost (highest value) scoring area touched by the bullet hole, even if it is elongated or keyholed is the assigned value of the shot. Ricochets will not be scored, but allowance will be made for keyholed bullets. The use of appropriate scoring gauges is strongly encouraged on all questionable bullet holes and on any questionable hole on other targets. The .30 caliber gauge will be used to score all targets and calibers to aid in assessing the values of close shots, and holes touching a scoring ring will be scored at the higher value.

14.3.1 Authority to use scoring gauges.

Only duly authorized range or statistical staff and referees or jury members are authorized to use scoring gauges. A given hole may be plugged (have the scoring gauge used) only once. If any question of the shot value remains at least two statistical officers will agree on the scoring before the gauge is removed. The determination of the official scorers is final and may not be challenged except in cases where the score is mis-written, or the scorer has failed to place either the "p" or the + or - indicating that the hole was checked with a scoring gauge.

a. Plug-type scoring gauges

Appropriate scoring gauges complying with governing body standards will be used if available.

High Power Sporting Rifle - If required, the appropriate caliber scoring gauge will be used.

14.4 Misses

Shots outside the scoring area on the targets will be scored as misses, assigned to the nearest record bull, and given the value of zero.

14.7 Hits on the wrong target or bullseye

a. Misplaced sighting shot

If a competitor fires a sighting shot at a record bull on another shooter's target, the shot will be discounted on the hit target, and the shooter firing the shot will be penalized two (2) points on their final score for each such shot fired.

b. Crossfires of record shots

If a competitor fires a record shot at the target of another shooter, that shot will be discounted on the other shooter's target and the shot will be scored as a miss.

14.10 Excessive hits

(Note that all targets framed or exposed at the same time will be considered "a target card" for the purpose of interpretation in this section.)

Excess hits are defined as hits in excess of the prescribed number of shots, or in excess of the number of shots the competitor has fired. Excess hits are scored as follows:

If excess hits occur on any target, including those in excess of the number fired by the competitor, any hit that can be determined to have come from another shooter based upon caliber, type, backing target (if used) or other evidence will be disallowed and only the proper number of hits will be scored. Where excess hits occur and their source cannot be determined, they will be scored as follows:

a. All hits of equal value

Score only the required number of hits or the number of shots fired by the competitor, scoring unfired shots as misses.

b. In slow fire

The competitor has the option of accepting the score generated by the required number of hits of lowest total value or re-firing the entire string in which the excess hit occurs. This option must be exercised immediately upon learning of the situation.

c. In rapid fire

1) Hits in excess of the number fired, fewer shots than required fired

If the competitor fired fewer than the required number of shots and a greater number of hits is recorded on the target, the number of shots fired of the highest total value will be scored and the remaining unfired shots will be scored as misses.

2) Required number of shots fired, excess hits on target

If the competitor fired the regulation number of shots on the target and excessive hits appear on the target, the hits of highest value corresponding to the regulation number of hits shall be scored.

3) Competitor fired more shots than regulation

Competitors firing more shots than are required in any relay or match will have their scores disallowed, posting a zero for that stage or part thereof.

15. DECISION OF TIES

15.4 Decision of Ties

In all matches, ties will be decided as follows:

a. X's

The shooter with the greatest number of X's over the course of fire will be placed ahead of other ties. **b. Ties not decided by X's**

1) Standing stage

Order of finish corresponding to scores in the standing stage of the event.

2) Sitting or kneeling rapid fire stage

Order of finish corresponding to scores fired in the rapid-fire stage of sitting or kneeling. **3) Prone rapid-fire stage**

Order of finish corresponding to the scores fired in the prone rapid-fire stage. **4) Prone slow fire stage**

Order of finish corresponding to the scores fired in the prone slow fire stage. **c. Ties still not broken**

1) Fewest misses

Order of finish in inverse order to the total number of misses

2) Fewest hits of lowest (and succeeding) value

Order of finish in inverse order to the number of hits of lowest value, then succeeding values as needed.

5) Duplicate awards

In the event that ties still remain, duplicate awards will be given.

16. CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

16.1 Challenges

When a shooter or coach feels that a match fired where he/she is competing has been improperly evaluated or scored, the shooter may challenge the score. A challenge must be made within the challenge time.

16.2 Protests

A competitor may formally protest

- a. Any injustice which they feel has been done to them, except the evaluation of a target, which he may challenge as outlined in Rule 16.1.
- b. The conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to fire.
- c. The equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use.

16.3 How to Protest

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

- a. State the complaint orally to the Range Officer or Statistical Officer. If not satisfied with his/her decision then,
- b. State the complaint orally to the Match Director. If not satisfied with his decision, then,
- c. File a formal protest with the Match/Event Director stating all the facts in the case. Such written protest must be filed within 12 hours of the occurrence of the protested incident.
- d. The Match/Event Director will form a Jury, discuss the facts, make a decision and report to the competitor. The protest and result of the protest will only be discussed with the shooter/participant that filed the complaint.