



SSAA
BIG GAME RIFLE DISCIPLINE
NATIONAL RULES

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NATIONAL BGR COMPETITION - GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS

Section 1: Aims & Objectives

- 1.1 These rules are compiled to foster and perpetuate an interest in the use of vintage and modern big game sporting rifles. Moreover, to encourage organised competitive shooting with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of such firearms.
- 1.2 To provide a set of national shooting rules which will guide competitors and assist competition staff in the orderly and consistent management of Big Game Rifle shooting in the SSAA.
- 1.3 To compete, by way of simulating field conditions thus improving members' firearm skills, safe handling and field skills in the pursuit of large and dangerous game.
- 1.4 The overriding basis for our competition is that the sporting rifles used are in the spirit of the event, as defined in section 1.1 above.

Section 2: Course of Fire and Time Limits

- 2.1 These practices appear in Annex A of this rulebook.

Section 3: Rifle Classifications (See Annex A)

Section 4: Proof of Eligibility of Any Rifle

- 4.1 Where there is any doubt as to the eligibility of a particular rifle, calibre or piece of equipment, the competitor may be required to provide documentary evidence that the rifle and any accessory meets the definitions as defined in 1.1 and 1.2
- 4.2 The National Discipline Chairman or his nominee shall disallow any rifle, calibre or piece of associated equipment where it is contrary to the spirit of the competition.

Section 5: Competitor Requirements

- 5.1 All competitors who compete in National Championships must be financial members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc., (SSAA) and a current SSAA Inc., membership card shall be accepted as proof of their financial status or a member of an accepted affiliate recognised by the SSAA.
- 5.2 All competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA and should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing line at any time. A rifle range is no place for inappropriate conduct. The Range Officer (RO) may discipline any shooter failing to observe this fact. In case of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor, the RO shall caution the offender once, and if there is any repetition of such conduct, the offender shall be disqualified and directed to leave the firing line immediately. If such behaviour continues the RO may expel the offender from the Shooting Range.

- 5.3 Competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA ranges, as well as any local rules pertinent to the range on which the particular competition is being conducted. Unsafe practices on a rifle range can be grounds for a competitor's disqualification.
- 5.4 The onus to complete firing within the time limits as laid down in these Rules is entirely the responsibility of the competitor. The host Branch should institute all procedures to assist in this regard.
- 5.5 A competitor is to ensure that any rifle used complies with the Rules. Rifle and equipment may be checked at any time before or during the competition. If the rifle is of a different calibre than the one originally nominated for the competition, the competitor is to ensure that the Head Scorer is notified before the targets are scored.

Section 6: Authority & Powers

- 6.1 The National Discipline Chairman (NDC) shall have the power to approve or disapprove any competition, where the NDC is not satisfied as to the manner in which the events are to be conducted. Moreover, the NDC shall have the responsibility to ensure that the rules are adhered to and any queries or protests be directed to the Protests and Appeals Committee. Should Host Branch representatives dissent from a ruling by the National Discipline Chairman, the matter shall be referred to the National Discipline Chairman Coordinator for adjudication.
- 6.2 The Range Officers (R.O.) as appointed shall be in charge of the ranges. The commands of the R.O. shall be obeyed forthwith.
- 6.3 All competitions conducted under these rules shall be held on approved SSAA ranges within the protocols of the Host State.
- 6.4 These rules shall apply to all competitors at the National Championships.
- 6.5 The host branch must make provision for the uninterrupted conduct of the competition.

Section 7: Briefing

- 7.1 All competitors shall be called together before the commencement of the competition and the RO will brief them on the following:
 - 7.1.1 Procedures outlined in these rules for protests, the fee (if applicable) to be employed and the names of the members of the Disputes Committee.
 - 7.1.2 Procedure for dealing with misfires outlined in these Rules.
 - 7.1.3 Procedure for dealing with a jammed live round (stuck live round) which fails to eject in the normal manner.

- 7.1.4 Any local safety requirements pertinent to the particular competition rifle range to be used for the competition.
- 7.1.5 Any competitor can call a "CEASE FIRE" for safety reasons.
- 7.2 Competitors shall be called to the firing line before the commencement of each detail and the following information given to them by the RO:
 - 7.2.1 Name, Competitor/Target Number:
 - 7.2.2 Number of rounds required for the event plus two extra rounds.
 - 7.2.3 Mode of fire and distance to the targets.
 - 7.2.4 Variations to timed sequences if required for safety reasons.
 - 7.2.5 The warning calls.
- 7.3 The RO will then check that all shooters are ready, then proceed with the course of fire.

Section 8: Competition Safety Rules

- 8.1 All commands by the RO are to be obeyed.

Section 9: Safe Handling Of Firearms

- 9.1 All firearms must be cleared by the RO before their removal from the firing line and placement in rifle racks or bags.
- 9.2 All firing is to be on the command of the RO. All range commands, i.e. "LOAD, ARE YOU READY, FIRE, CEASE FIRE, UNLOAD etc.(as defined in section 23)" and audible signal used in lieu of verbal commands are to be adhered to at all times.
- 9.3 No person shall move in front of the firing line until all firearms are unloaded and the R.O declares the range clear to move forward.
- 9.4 If a misfire occurs, the competitor is to keep the action closed with the firearm pointed down range and summon the RO by raising his/her arm.
- 9.5 When on the firing line, firearms are to be pointing down range at all times. Fingers are to remain off triggers and outside the trigger guards, unless actually firing.
- 9.6 When outside the designated shooting area or firing line, all firearms must be unloaded (chamber and magazine), and actions opened
- 9.7 Any breach of safety or serious malfunction must be brought to the immediate attention of the RO, who will give the necessary orders to rectify the problem.
- 9.8 No person shall handle another's firearm without the owner's permission or RO's instructions.
- 9.9 If an unsafe circumstance develops, any competitor may call "Cease Fire". All shooting must stop at the command; RO to take charge and investigate before the competition recommences.

Section 10: Safety Equipment

- 10.1 All persons on the firing line and spectators are to be clearly advised that wearing of eye and ear protection is recommended in their own safety interests.

Section 11: Coaching

- 11.1 No coaching or assisting a competitor on the firing line is permitted save for disabled competitors who may be assisted on to the firing line and into firing position.

Section 12: Scoring

- 12.1 *Manned Butts Area* - If using a manned butts area, competitors' targets are not to be identifiable by the scorers. Butts score sheets are to be kept for each detail.
- 12.2 *Scoring* - Targets are to be scored as follows. A hit that touches a scoring ring shall be given the higher value. This is provided that an overlay of the same calibre as that used to fire on the target, touches some part of the ring when overlaid on the bullet hole.
- 12.3 Cross-fires: A competitor firing on another competitor's target shall lose all the shots cross-fired. The competitor whose target has been cross-fired on will be scored as follows.
- 12.3.1 In the case of there being additional shots of an obviously different calibre, the target will be scored normally. That is, the alien shots will be disregarded. However, if there are shots of more than one calibre on the target and the competitor has less than the required number of shots, the competitor is given the highest scoring alien shot(s).
- 12.3.2 In the event of more than the required number of shots of the same calibre, the lowest scoring shots are to be discounted unless proved a cross-fire by the stationary backing boards.
- 12.4 *Extra Shots* - Where a competitor has fired more than the permitted number of shots for a particular position in a full match, the highest valued shots will be struck from targets on which more than the required number of shots have been fired, until only the number of shots required for that position remain on the target.
- 12.5 *Penalties* - Any shooter who fires after the command "load" and before the command "fire" and after "cease fire" shall have the highest scoring shot taken from his score in that position for each infringement.
- 12.6 When two shooters have an identical score they will be separated by the count back. E.g. where two shooters have a score of 150 shooter (a) has in his score 3 x 10 rings and shooter (b) has 2 x 10 rings then shooter (a) will be declared the winner.
- 12.7 Where a target has an X ring or bullseye inside the 10 ring a shot touching or inside that ring or bullseye shall be scored as 10.1 (The .1 designated an X ring or bullseye score only), i.e. a score of 180.18 would not be added up to 181.8 and a score of 181 would beat it.

Section 13: Targets

- 13.1 S.S.A.A. official 50 metre slow fire pistol target will be used.

Section 14: Protest and Appeals

- 14.1 At all registered tournaments there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the host branch or club organisers to hear and decide protests and appeals.
- 14.2 The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people one of whom shall act as chairman, any of whom may be competitors in the competition, but in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (notwithstanding any rule or rules of law to the contrary). In tournaments where more than one host association or club is represented, a delegate from any of the branches represented may be appointed to be a member of the said committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the host branch.
- 14.3 A protest may be lodged by any competitor who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Range Officer, the target scorers, or any other organisational matters or methods of conducting the competition. A competitor may protest the conduct of another competitor(s) or that another competitor(s) has not fulfilled his obligations according to the Rules, or has not properly obeyed the Rules.
- 14.4 The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a fee the amount of which shall be nominated by the organisers of the competition. If the protest or appeal is upheld, the applicant is to be refunded the amount of the fee. If the protest is disallowed, then the fee shall be forfeited to the organisers conducting the competition.
- 14.5 The protest is to be lodged with the Range Officer or other persons nominated by the organisers of the competition to receive appeals. A protest may be lodged during the conduct of a competition or after the competition has been completed, but no later than 30 minutes after the scores for that competition have been announced or posted. When received, the protest or appeal must be given to the Chairman of the Protest and Appeals Committee as soon as possible.
- 14.6 The Chairman shall convene the Appeals Committee without undue delay and the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to:-
- hear evidence from the protester, the appellant and persons(s) involved in the protest;
 - to require the Range Officer, Scorers or organisers to produce targets, score sheets or other material relevant to the protest;
 - to call evidence from any other person(s) who may be able to help the Appeals Committee and
 - to do all such other things that the Appeals Committee believes will enable it to reach an unbiased and just decision.
- 14.7 Any accused person shall:-
- 14.7.1 have a right to be heard before the Appeals Committee and to remain in attendance during each session of the Appeals Committee.

- 14.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.
- 14.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
- 14.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made
- 14.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
- 14.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.
- 14.7.7 Immediately the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision; or post the decision on a notice board. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

Section 15: Clothing

- 15.1 Shooting Coats or Jackets shall not have any devices to stiffen or restrict the body. Any rifle sling must not be fixed to the clothing by any means, e.g. buttons or straps. The coat may have shoulder and/or elbow pads. Recoil reducing pads may be worn under the competitors apparel.

Section 16: Optics

- 16.1 No personal optical aids, other than safety or prescription glasses are permitted to be used in events.

Section 17: Accessories

- 17.1 *Sling* – Slings may be fitted but must not be used as a shooting aid.
- 17.2 *Scopes* – Telescopic sights may be used subject to penalties. A standard scope penalty is one point deducted for each scoring shot but does not apply to shots scoring 10 Points.

Section 18: Malfunctions

- 18.1 *Deeming rifles and/or* ammunition unserviceable - The RO may deem any suspect rifle or ammunition unserviceable. Once so deemed, the rifle shall be removed from the firing line and not re-admitted until cleared by the RO. The RO will be guided strictly by the principle that if there is any doubt, the rifle is to be disqualified from further range use until the problem has been positively rectified.
- 18.2 *Misfires* - In the event of a misfire, a competitor must not open the action of the rifle for at least 60 seconds, during which time the rifle must continue to be pointed down range. It is the competitor's responsibility to inform the RO immediately of any such occurrence. Barrel must be inspected for obstructions.
- 18.3 *Broken Rifle* - A competitor, whose rifle breaks or ceases to function, may at the discretion of the Disputes Committee, change to another rifle between stages of an event. A breakdown occurring during a stage will not be sufficient reason to re-shoot that stage. Scorer to be notified.

- 18.4 *Permitted Re-shoot* - The Appeals committee only, may deem that a competitor has not received a fair opportunity due to some act of providence or unforeseen circumstance and permit the competitor another attempt. For example, targets displaced or falling from target frames, a malfunction of any range equipment, or a misinterpretation of rules and/or range orders given by the RO.

Section 19: Stuck Live Round

- 19.1 *Stuck Live Round* – If a malfunction results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the firearm is to be made safe and removed from the Range to a competent person. Under no circumstances is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar, from the muzzle or front of the cylinder.

Section 20: Ammunition

- 20.1 Ammunition is to be as close as practical to factory ballistics of the original ammunition and must meet the minimum criteria laid down for the class being contested.
- 20.2 A shooter shall have available at the firing line 2 extra rounds for evaluation by the RO if required. Failure to comply with the above will mean disqualification from the particular event.
- 20.3 If evaluation of a shooter's ammunition is required then the RO will choose at random from the firing line those rounds required for evaluation.
- 20.4 Evaluation of ammunition will be carried out by the use of a chronograph and the competitor's rifle and or by manual checking of projectiles for weight and type.
- 20.5 Ammunition may not be borrowed while on the line.

The following Sections (21 and 22) are the optimum requirements to be complied with to hold a National Championship.

Section 21: Match Shooting Requirements.

- 21.1 *Range Officer* - One (1) RO is required to conduct the competition in a safe and proper manner and carry out the procedures as outlined in these Rules.
- 21.2 *Assistant Range Officers* - Two (2) are required per detail of 20 shooters, to assist the RO.
- 21.3 *Competition Officer* - One (1) is required to call the shooters to the line, inform them of who is shooting in the next detail, the next course of fire and the number of rounds required. This enables competitors to be ready for the RO's final briefing and inspection before each detail.
- 21.4 *Target Detail* - Two (2) personnel is desirable and they should be volunteers or paid help, but preferably non-competitors. It is recommended that two rehearsal shoots be conducted to allow inexperienced personnel to become familiar with what is required of them. Typical duties are to:
- attach new targets to the frames where required,
 - check the number and dispersion of shots on the targets and notify the RO of any matter requiring investigation,

- to convey shot targets (where applicable to the course of fire) directly to the Head Scorer and carry out the shifting of targets at distance changes, and
- also to check that the position numbers of each competitor's target are correctly in place

21.5 *Scoring Staff* – A minimum of three (3) staff are required as follows:

- *Head Scorer* - who must be experienced and is to score all targets to the same calibre as was shot, is to gauge by overlaying a scoring slide all close shots and supervise the scoring.
- *Check Scorer* - must be experienced and is to check the result of each gauged shot and to check other aspects of the scoring, before passing the scores to the Recorder.
- *Recorder* - is to record all scores (after checking) on a score sheet in the proper manner and display targets where applicable, along with scores as soon as possible for inspection by competitors.

Section 22: Range Facility Requirements For Nationals

- 22.1 *Safety*: The range must meet all normal and local safety requirements.
- 22.2 *Capacity and Distance*: The range must be able to accommodate a minimum of fifteen (15) shooting stations and target frames at the required distances.
- 22.3 *Target Mountings*: The line of target mounts or frames shall be parallel to the firing line.
- 22.4 *Scoreboards*: Scores are to be displayed in plain view of competitors throughout the competition. The scores shall be updated frequently.

Section 23: Range Commands

RANGE COMMANDS

- 23.1 SSAA Range Commands apply except during the actual running of events where, because of the need to run timed events or events which require movement onto the range between stages, specific commands are required. The specific commands are as follows:
- 23.2 Command given to commence a course of fire:
"FOR (specify course of fire) YOU MAY LOAD".
(pause) "ARE YOU READY" (pause) "COMMENCE FIRE."
After the allotted time has expired the range officer commands "CEASE FIRE".
- 23.3 Command given for a normal ceasefire:
"CEASE FIRE. OPEN ALL ACTIONS. REMAIN ON THE FIRING LINE UNTIL YOUR FIREARM HAS BEEN CLEARED BY A RANGE OFFICER".
- 23.4 Command given to move to next firing position:
"RANGE CLEAR. KEEP YOUR ACTION OPEN AND MOVE TO THE NEXT FIRING POSITION".
- 23.5 Command given to end an event:
"RANGE CLEAR. YOU MAY MOVE FORWARD OF THE FIRING LINE.
- 23.6 In the event an emergency cease fire is required the command is:

"CEASE FIRE".

Section 24: National Competition Events

- 24.1 The National Competition consists of seven (*) core events that are to be conducted at National Championships. The core events are divided into two classes.
- 24.2 If range requirements prohibit the target layout for the "Charging Animal" event, the "Special Snap" event can be substituted.
- 24.3 Events that can be contested using a Group 1 or a lesser energy cartridge i.e Charging Animal/ Special Snap, Double Rifle & Group 1 are categorised in a section called "Stalking Rifles", all other Events are classed in the "Stopping Rifles" section. All competitors competing for the title of "National Champion" MUST compete in a minimum of TWO Stalking Rifles and TWO Stopping Rifle categories to be eligible. The scorers will collate the National Championship score from the highest two percentages in each category and aggregate them. In the event of a tied score for National Open, Ladies or Junior Champion, joint winners will be declared.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Bronze</u>	<u>Comments</u>
* Group 1 Nitro	Open	1	1	1	
* Group 2 Nitro	Open	1	1	1	
* Group 3 Nitro	Open	1	1	1	
* Charging Animal or Special Snap	Open	1	1	1	
* Black Powder Express	Open	1	1	1	
* Double Rifle	Open	1	1	1	
* Bore Guns & Rifles	Open	1	1	1	
Juniors Championship	Juniors	1	1	1	
Ladies Championship	Ladies	1	1	1	
National Champions	Open	1	1	1	
State Team Champions	Open	Perpetual Trophy. 3	 3	 3	Nominated state team members only. A team to comprise three members.
Total medals		13	13	13	

The Open National Championship shall be aggregated over four events whilst the junior championships and ladies championships are to be an aggregate of two Big Game Rifle events.

Annexes:

- A. Competition Practices and Rifle Class Classifications. (next page)

ANNEX A**COMPETITION PRACTICES & RIFLE CLASS CLASSIFICATIONS****Core Events**

1. ***Group 1 Nitro***
2. ***Group 2 Nitro***
3. ***Group 3 Nitro***
4. ***Charging Animal or Special Snap***
5. ***Black Powder Express***
6. ***Double Rifle***
7. ***Bore Guns & Rifles***

Group 1 Nitro

- Minimum calibre .330"
- Minimum Bullet weight 165grains
- Minimum muzzle energy 2,900 ft.lbs.

Courses of fire:**National Event: 20 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Comments
100 yds	4	Off-hand	Up to 10 minutes
100 yds	4	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 10 minutes
50 yds	4	Off-hand	Up to 10 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	In 10 seconds
25 yds	3 X 2 shots	Off-hand	each pair In 10 seconds

Group 2 Nitro:

- Minimum calibre .400"
- Minimum Bullet weight 400 grains
- Minimum Muzzle energy 3,900 ft.lbs.

Courses of fire:**National Event: 14 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Comments
100 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
100 yds	2	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	In 10 seconds
25 yds	3 X 2 shots	Off-hand each pair	In 10 seconds

Group 3 Nitro

- Calibre over .485"
- Minimum Bullet weight 525 grains
- Minimum Muzzle Energy 5,300 ft.lbs.

Courses of fire:**National Event: 8 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Timing
50 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	In 10 seconds
25 yds	2 X 2 shots	Off-hand each pair	In 10 seconds

Charging Animal

- Any firearm meeting the requirements of Group 1 *minimum*.

Course of fire:**National Events: 6 Shots**

- For each competitor, targets will be placed at 75yds, 50yds and 25yds.
- On command the competitor will fire 6 shots, in order, 2 shots at the 75yd target, 2 shots at the 50yd target and 2 shots at the 25yd target.
- Total time allowed is 35 seconds

In the event that the host range cannot accommodate targets set at the required three distances (25,50 & 75yds) then the Charging Animal may be replaced by the Special Snap event.

Special Snap

- Any firearm meeting the requirements of Group 1 minimum.

Course of fire:**National Events: 8 Shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Timing
25 yds	8	Off-hand	In 35 seconds

Black Powder Express

- Minimum calibre .400
- Minimum case capacity 110 grains black powder
- Loads may be:
 - Full black powder
 - Pyrodex
 - Duplex - must be at least 80% black powder
- Jacketed bullets may only be used with full black powder

Courses of fire:**National Event: 20 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Timing
100 yds	4	Off-hand	Up to 10 minutes
100 yds	4	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 10 minutes
50 yds	4	Off-hand	Up to 10 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	In 10 seconds
25 yds	3 X 2 shots	Off-hand each pair	In 10 seconds

Double Rifle

- Any centerfire double rifle of minimum calibre .228".

Course of fire:**National Events: 10 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Timing
50 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	4	Off-hand	In 16 seconds
25 yds	4	Off-hand	In 16 seconds

Bore Guns & Rifles

- Any bore gun or rifle with full rifling or patent rifling, as in Paradox (rifled choke), or semi-invisible rifling for ball and shot. Smoothbore *ball*-guns permitted provided they are specifically designed for ball and have sights fitted by the original maker.
- Minimum 16 bore.
- Must have maker's fitted sights.
- May use black powder or nitro loads. Must be factory maximum or equivalent reloads.
- Shotguns using solid slugs, such as "Brenneke" slugs or similar modern developments are not permitted.
- Firearms of modern manufacture in keeping with the spirit of the event may be used provided approval of the firearm and load is gained from the National Discipline Chairman before the event.

Course of fire:**National Events: 14 shots**

Range	Number of Shots	Position	Timing
100 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
100 yds	2	Sitting or Kneeling	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	Up to 5 minutes
50 yds	2	Off-hand	In 10 seconds
25 yds	3 X 2 shots	Off-hand each pair	In 10 seconds