



BLACK POWDER SHOOTING UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

RULES

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Table of Contents

1.	PRINCIPLES OF RULES	1
2.	COMPLIANCE WITH RULES.....	1
3.	MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS	1
3.1	Classes of Competition.....	1
3.2	Authorisation of Competitions	1
3.3	Refusal or Withdrawal of BPSU Authorisation.....	2
3.4	Rules to Govern Competition	2
4.	AMENDMENTS TO RULES.....	2
5.	APPLICABILITY OF RULES	2
6.	THE ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL MATCHES.....	2
7.	CONDUCT OF SHOOTING.....	3
8.	SAFETY RULES.....	5
9.	FLINT AND PERCUSSION ARMS EVENTS.....	6
9.1	Introduction	6
9.2	Targets	6
9.3	Scoring and Ties	7
a)	In all 25-200m events:	7
b)	In all 300-900m events:.....	7
10.	FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND ACCESSORIES.....	7
10.1	General Rules.....	7
10.2	Classes of Firearms for MLAIC Competitions	7
a)	Military Percussion and Musket Rifles.....	7
10.3	Ammunition	9
a)	Powder	9
b)	Wads.....	9
c)	Bullets	9
10.4	Accessories.....	9
a)	Slings	9
b)	Palm Supports	10
c)	Funnels and Loading Tubes.....	10
d)	Cleaning / Wiping Rods.....	10
e)	Clothing.....	10
10.5	Shooting Rules	11
a)	Shooting Positions	11
b)	Number of Shots in Competitions	11
c)	Fouling Shot.....	11

d) Snapping of Caps, Flashing of Pans and Firing of Fouling Shots.....	11
e) Loading Incidents.....	11
f) Interruption of a Relay.....	11
g) Malfunction of Firearms.....	11
h) Aiming marks.....	12
i) Range Control Commands for Short Range Muzzle Loading Competitions.....	12
11. MUZZLE LOADING EVENTS SANCTIONED BY THE BPSU OF SA	13
11.1 Short Range Events	13
11.2 Short Range Team Events.....	15
11.3 Awarding of Short Range Medals	15
11.4 Mid Range Events	15
11.5 Long Range Events	16
11.6 Mid and Long Range Aggregate.....	16
11.7 Mid and Long Range Team Event.....	16
12. RULES FOR CLAY TARGET COMPETITIONS.....	16
12.1 Shooting Stands	16
12.2 Clay Launcher (see also MLAIC Clay Target Competition Rules).....	16
12.3 Clay Targets.....	16
12.4 Spectators	16
12.5 Range Officer and Arbitrators.....	17
12.6 Clay Target Shooting Rules	17
12.7 Ties	19
12.8 Shotguns	19
12.9 Loads.....	19
12.10 Protests.....	20
12.11 Penalties	20
12.12 Awarding of Medals for Clay Target Events	20
12.13 Safety Restrictions.....	21
12.14 Clay Target Shooting Layout – Dimensions in Metres.....	21
13. GENERAL BLACK POWDER SHOOTING SAFETY REGULATIONS	21
14. ORGANISATION OF MID- & LONG RANGE MUZZLE LOADING MATCHES (i.e. 300-900m)	23
14.1 Ranges	23
14.2 Shooting Position.....	23
14.3 Squadding.....	23
14.4 Targets and Ring Values.....	23
14.5 Marking and Signalling.....	24

14.6	Shot Marking Procedure	24
14.7	Marker's Duties.....	24
15.8	Scoring	24
14.9	Ties	25
14.10	Rifle Regulations	26
14.11	Course of Fire	26
14.12	Slings.....	26
14.13	Wiping of Barrels	26
14.14	Safety	26
15.	HISTORICAL BREECHLOADING SMALL FIREARMS COMPETITIONS	26
15.1	Introduction	26
15.2	Safety and Shooters' Responsibilities	27
15.3	Classification of Historical Firearms for Competition	27
15.4	Classification of Historical Breechloading Rifles For BPSU Events.....	27
	a) By Age	27
	b) By Type.....	28
	c) By Calibre	28
	d) By Ammunition	28
15.5	Classification of Historical Breechloading Pistols.....	28
	a) By Age	28
	b) By Type.....	29
	c) By Ammunition.....	29
15.6	Shooting Positions for Breechloading Rifle Events	29
15.7	Range Procedures and Commands for Breechloading Rifle Events.....	29
15.8	Range Procedures and Commands for Breechloading Pistol Events.....	30
15.9	Scoring of Targets	30
15.10	Ties	31
15.11	Safety in The Loading, Transportation and Use of Cartridges	31
15.12	Targets and Course of Fire for Breechloading Events	32
	a) Targets.....	32
	b) Breechloading Events Sanctioned by the BPSU of SA	32
16.	BPSU RECORDS.....	34
17.	SELECTION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.	34
17.1	Constitution.....	34
17.2	Procedure.....	34
17.3	Short Range (MLAIC) Events.....	34

17.4	Pacific Zone (MLAIC) vents.....	35
17.5	Mid and Long Range (MLAIC) Events	36
17.6	Selection Committee.....	36
17.7	Principle of Team Selection	36
18.	ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO SHOOTING RULES	36

1. PRINCIPLES OF RULES

- 1.1 The underlying principles of the BPSU's rules are that no competitor or team shall:
 - act in an unsafe manner; or
 - gain an unfair advantage or be at an unfair disadvantage in any competition.
- 1.2 These two principles shall be used as the basis for resolving any difficulty in interpreting these rules.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH RULES

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all members of the BPSU and competitors in events held under its auspices to familiarise themselves with these Rules, together with the conditions applicable to the competition which they have entered. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse for non-compliance.
- 2.2 All competitors and teams shall undertake to comply with these Rules.
- 2.3 Anyone becoming aware of any violation of these Rules or any part thereof must report the incident immediately to the Range Officer.

3. MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

3.1 Classes of Competition

The BPSU is the governing body for the shooting of historical muzzle- and breechloading firearms in South Africa. It recognises the following types of competitions as being held under its auspices in South Africa.

- a) **International Matches:** organised by the BPSU together with the recognised shooting organisation of the country concerned. The officials are appointed by the BPSU.
- b) **National Championships:** organised by the BPSU. The officials are appointed by the BPSU.
- c) **Provincial Championships:** annual competitions conducted by BPSU affiliated clubs. The Provincial clubs concerned thereof appoint the officials.
- d) **Registered Competitions:** Other events to be organised by SABU or affiliated clubs of the BPSU, may be authorised by the BPSU after application has been filed by the secretary or other appropriate officer of any affiliated club, which will act as the organiser of such an event or competition.

3.2 Authorisation of Competitions

Before being publicised in programmes or otherwise, the sponsoring organisation of any competition as mentioned in these Rules shall have applied for registration of the competition at least 90 days prior to the planned date of the event and have it approved by the BPSU before releasing the programme and inviting entries. The organiser shall also agree to comply with the BPSU's regulations for such a competition.

3.3 Refusal or Withdrawal of BPSU Authorisation

The BPSU may refuse to authorise or withdraw its authorisation for any competition, which cannot or does not comply with the BPSU's requirements.

3.4 Rules to Govern Competition

The local sponsor of each competition must agree to conduct the authorised competition according to BPSU rules. All matches and competitions should at all times be hosted under the BPSU rules, if not then that match will not be recognised and not covered by insurance. It will in effect then in totality not an event relevant to the BPSU.

4. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

- 4.1 Whenever a Rule is amended, or a choice of procedures is permitted under these Rules prospective competitors should be informed of the amended or selected procedure before entries are invited. However, nothing in this Rule should be construed as preventing the programme committee from changing the conditions of an event at any time due to unavoidable circumstances.
- 4.2 In addition, the BPSU's Executive Committee reserves the right to alter, suspend or rescind any of these Rules at any time, however every effort will be made to effect such changes at the AGM of the BPSU.
- 4.3 Provincial clubs or associations and individual members may submit suggestions for amending these Rules to the BPSU. Such suggestions must be signed by at least five members and must clearly indicate the problem(s) with the existing Rule(s) together with the recommended amendment of a Rule.

5. APPLICABILITY OF RULES

- 5.1 These Rules are for the conduct of all historical firearm competitions held by or under the auspices of the BPSU.
- 5.2 These Rules should be read in conjunction with the conditions of a specific competition as detailed in the programme of that competition, in the event of any conflict, the programme takes precedence and applies.
- 5.3 Where no more specific rule is set out below, the current SABU Rules of Shooting shall apply.

6. THE ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL MATCHES

All National and Provincial matches held under the auspices of the BPSU shall be managed in an orderly manner. For each such event the following procedures shall be adhered to:

- 6.1 A **Match Director** shall be appointed to organise and run the meeting.
- 6.2 A **Match Programme** shall be compiled and be circulated to all competitors either prior to the match or upon registration for the event at the range. This programme should provide a schedule for the events to be held, a squadding sheet and a list of names of all the persons controlling the match and their designations.

- 6.3 A National **Range Officer** or his deputy will assume responsibility for the safe conduct and observance of all shooting rules.
- 6.4 Provision shall be made for the **inspection of firearms** prior to the start of each event to confirm that they comply with the rules for the competition. The inspection procedure shall be stated on the match programme.
- 6.5 An **Arbitration Committee** comprising at least three persons shall be appointed prior to the match to adjudicate scoring, protests, disputes and challenges to recorded scores.
- 6.6 An **Information Sheet** detailing catering arrangements, accommodation, social events and any other information relevant to the meeting shall be incorporated in the match programme.
- 6.7 **Notices of the Match with Entry Forms** shall be circulated by the organisers of the BPSU sanctioned meetings to all affiliated Club secretaries and all members of the Association at least one month to the date on which the event will be held.
- 6.8 All **Other responsibilities** pertaining to the organisation and management of a BPSU sanctioned meeting unless otherwise specified, will be the responsibility of the host organisation and be its prerogative to conduct as it chooses.

7. CONDUCT OF SHOOTING

- 7.1 **Range Officer(s):** Competitive shooting will only take place under the control of nominated BPSU ratified Range Officers who will be under the supervision of the National Range Officer.
- 7.2 **Restricted Area:** It is essential that the Range Officers (Chief Range Officers and/or Assistant Range Officers) have a clear view of the entire range and the shooting point. A control line shall be established 10 meters behind the shooting point and this area shall be designated the restricted area.

No vehicles may be parked in this restricted area or move through it whilst shooting is in progress. The Range Officer will ensure that flags and all other warning devices are properly in place and the range forward of the line is totally cleared.

When shooting is in progress the only persons allowed forward of the control line would be:

- a) The Range Officer on duty.
 - b) BPSU Officers on duty.
 - c) Register keepers or target markers.
 - d) Competitors actively engaged in shooting or moving towards or back from the firing point.
 - e) Members of a team during a team competition.
 - f) Any other person with special authority from the National Range Officer.
- 7.3 **Range Commands:** Within the restricted area, competitors shall comply with all orders given by the Range Officer for the due observance of the rules of the event and maintenance of safety.

- 7.4 **Range Officers' Duties:** The duties and responsibilities of the Range Officers begin with the opening of the shoot and cease when shooting for the day is over and the range warning flags are lowered.
- 7.5 **No Interference:** Persons who are not authorised to be in the restricted area, may not distract competitors or engage them in conversation whilst an event is under the control of a Range Officer. Urgent communications may only be channelled through the Range Officer and will be conveyed at his discretion. No cellular phones may be operated in the restricted area.
- 7.6 **Punctuality:** Any competitor who is not ready at his proper place by the scheduled starting time may forfeit his right to shoot. In no circumstances will a latecomer be permitted to join the squad once a competitor has fired the first sighting shot.
- 7.7 **Disturbance:** No person is allowed to make any noise or disturbance likely to affect a competitor. The Range Officer may have any person infringing this regulation removed from the vicinity of the firing point.
- 7.8 **Practice:** No practice shots are permitted during the course of a match.
- 7.9 **Cross fires:** A competitor who intentionally fires at the wrong target or out of turn will be disqualified.
- 7.10 **Shielding:** No competitor may shield himself or his rifle from the sun, wind or weather whilst competing in an event.
- 7.11 **Suspension of Shooting:** The Range Officer may suspend firing temporarily if in his judgement weather conditions justify such suspension or for any other reason he considers valid.
- 7.12 **Retirement:** A competitor retires when he voluntarily ceases to fire before being required to do so by the conditions of the match. The person concerned must formally report his retirement to the Range Officer or, in case of mid- and long range competitions, submit his scorecard with "Withdrawn" written in the remaining scoring blocks and his signature.
- 7.13 **Vacating the Firing Point:** If a competitor withdraws from the firing point whilst shooting is still in progress, he must be careful not to cast shadows on or in any other way disturb other shooters in aim. No competitor may leave the shooting point unless dedicated non-shooting score-keepers are appointed.
- 7.14 **Conversation on the Firing Point:** The only communication that will be allowed on the range, will be between shooters confirming value of each shot, guiding co-shooters until on the target, communication with range officers calling for challenges etc. Conversation should be limited to necessary communication to ensure the correct flow of the event, and should at all times consider other participants on the range.
- 7.15 **Discipline:** It is the duty of each competitor to sincerely co-operate with the match officials in the effort to conduct a safe and efficient match. Competitors are expected to promptly call the attention of proper officials to any infraction of the Rules of safety or good sportsmanship. Failure of a competitor to co-operate in such matters or to give evidence when called upon to do so in any case arising out of an infraction of these

Rules may result in the said competitor being considered as an accessory to the offence.

- 7.16 **Disorderly Conduct:** Disorderly conduct or intoxication is strictly prohibited on the range and anyone guilty of this will be expelled from the range and may become liable to a formal disciplinary enquiry. No alcoholic beverages may be drunk on the range or in its immediate vicinity whilst a match is in progress. Alcohol may only be consumed after the Range Officer has declared that shooting has ceased for the day.
- 7.17 **Drug and Alcohol Abuse:** The use of any drugs or alcohol to enhance performance or overcome match nerves is strictly prohibited.

8. SAFETY RULES

- 8.1 Only legally possessed firearms which are in good working order and which conform to the patterns, models and styles defined in the competition rules, may be used in competitive events.
- 8.2 The use of eye protection (safety glasses) and ear protection (ear plugs and ear muffs) are mandatory when firing is commenced.
- 8.3 Whilst on the range and not participating in an event, a competitor must at all times, when his firearm is out of its carrying bag or case, make it visibly safe to fellow shooters and Range Officers, i.e. percussion firearms with hammer cocked or half-cocked displaying an uncapped nipple; flint firearms, half-cocked with pan open and unprimed; percussion firearms and breechloading firearms with action open and with breech flag inserted; pistols laid on the bench with breech or cylinder open and unloaded.
- 8.4 Firearms may not be handled when competitors are forward of the firing point and when the safety flags are raised. Actions may not be dry fired or caps snapped.
- 8.5 Firearms may not be loaded until the Range Officer issues the order "Range Safe. You May Commence Firing."
- 8.6 A Competitor who loads his firearm or fires a shot prior to the "Commence Fire" command will be guilty of an offence and shall be disqualified.
- 8.7 A loaded rifle must always be pointed towards the range backstop regardless if said rifle is capped or not. Capping of percussion arms and loading of cartridges into rifle chambers or magazines must be done from the shooting position just prior to aiming. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- 8.8 A competitor who whilst on the firing point, accidentally discharges his firearm without aiming shall forfeit the shot (which shall be recorded as a miss). If the Range Officer considers the accidental discharge to have arisen from carelessness or folly he will forthwith forbid the competitor to fire again until the circumstances have been investigated by the Match Committee (director and arbitrators). If this body considers the action to have been dangerous it will disqualify the competitor.
- 8.9 In the event of a misfire, the firearm shall be pointed downrange for a period of one (1) minute and the Range Officer be called to observe and supervise the unloading or clearing of a charge from the firearm's chamber or barrel. If the firearm cannot be

cleared on the range it must be made safe and the barrel dismantled and removed from the range.

- 8.10 Black powder must be dispensed and handled with special care on the range. No firearms may be loaded directly from a bulk black powder container. This includes the use of powder flasks. All black powder on the firing line must be held as pre-measured loads in separate containers. Powder may not be measured into loads from bulk containers within the restricted area on the range. When black powder events are being held, smoking is prohibited in the restricted area. A designated safe area will be allocated at each match for measuring out powder charges and loading cartridges.
- 8.11 The Range Officer may prohibit the use of any firearm or method of loading or the operation of any firearm, which he believes to be unsafe.

9. FLINT AND PERCUSSION ARMS EVENTS

9.1 Introduction

The BPSU is a member of the MLAIC and conducts its competitive events in accordance with MLAIC's shooting regulations. Unless otherwise specified, the MLAIC rules for competitions will apply to BPSU approved events other than the organisational structures adopted by the MLAIC for World and Zone Championship meetings.

9.2 Targets

- a) For 50m Flintlock Musket event. 200m French Military Target. (MLAIC 200m target) 3 ring diameter = 80mm, 9-1 ring, 80mm diameter increments per step. Single target for 13 shots.
- b) For all other 25-100m events. ISSF 50m Pistol target, 10 ring – 50mm, 9-1 ring, 50mm increments per ring diameter. Single target for 13 shots.
- c) 200m Events. ISSF 25m Olympic Rapid Fire target. 10 ring – 100mm, 9-5 ring, 80mm increments per ring diameter. Single target for 13 shots.
- d) 300-900m events. SABU targets as issued for full-bore shooting in 1995. Scoring ring dimensions in inches as follows:

TARGET	AIM MARK	BULL	INNER	MAGPIE	OUTER
300m	23.5"	6.3"	15.8"	23.5"	Rest of Target
500m & 600m	35"	14"	35"	53"	Rest of Target
700m, 800m & 900m	45"	22"	45"	71"	Rest of Target

Target Frame Sizes:

300m	120x120cm	(47"x47")
500m & 600m	180x180cm	(72"x72")
700m, 800m & 900m	240x180 (h) cm	(96"x72")

V-Bull diameters: At all distances the V-Bull diameter is approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ that of the bull's eye.

Cours of Fire: 3 convertible sighters at 300m, 500m & 600m and 10 scoring shots to count.

5 convertible sighters at 700-900m and 10 or 15 scoring shots to count.

9.3 Scoring and Ties

a) In all 25-200m events:

The best 10 out of 13 shots are counted for score, the centre point of the bullet hole must be touching the line to count for the higher score.

In the event of ties the winner is determined by the highest number of scoring shots in each scoring ring in descending order. If there is still a tie the loser is the one with the lowest value scoring shot furthest from the target centre and so on comparing second lowest value scoring shots etc. until the tie is resolved.

b) In all 300-900m events:

The converted sighters plus additional shots to make a total of 10 or 15 scoring shots.

Ties will be separated by V-bull counts first. If ties still exist, then by counting back from the last scoring shots in sequence and comparing the values obtained. The loser will be the person with the lower value shot in the count back comparison.

10. FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND ACCESSORIES

10.1 General Rules

Any firearm may only be used once in any event, i.e. it may not be loaned to any other competitor to compete with again in the same event.

All firearms are to be properly licensed in terms of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 where required.

No colours other than black or white may be used on the foresight.

The half-cock position, if present must be in a safe working condition.

No distinction is made between original and replica rifles in BPSU competitions.

10.2 Classes of Firearms for MLAIC Competitions

a) Military Percussion and Musket Rifles

The arms shall be manufactured in accordance with military patterns, in unaltered condition and have original pattern sights.

Limited minor alterations to the point of aim are permissible by the use of a replacement blade or sight, bearing the same configuration and profile as the original. Alterations to the original sights are not permitted.

Military smooth bore flintlock muskets with rear sights that may be detached without alteration to the firearm may be used with the rear sight removed.

Set triggers, butt pads, cheek pads, wiping bores out between shots and loading funnels longer than 100mm are not permitted.

The bore diameter shall be in excess of 13.5 mm (0.5315”).

b) Free Percussion Rifles

Any muzzle loading rifle not qualifying as a military rifle in 10.2(a), with contemporary style sights, excluding telescopic and optical sights.

The rifling pitch and number of grooves shall replicate the appropriate original pattern, although the depth of the rifling grooves may be different.

Aperture sights (including modern made replica sights) are permitted providing that their design is consistent with the period of manufacture (1899) and they are appropriate to the type of firearm. This applies to both rear and front sights.

Military rifles of any bore diameter may be used in this competition. Where a military rifle is used in such "Free Rifle" events, the restriction on cleaning between shots and the use of funnels and loading tubes do not apply.

c) Flintlock Rifles

Any muzzle loading rifle fitted with a flintlock ignition system, with contemporary sights.

The rifling pitch and number of grooves shall replicate the appropriate original pattern, although the depth of the rifling grooves may be different.

Open or aperture sights (including modern made reproduction sights) are permitted providing their design is consistent with the period of manufacture (up to 1850) and appropriate to the firearm.

d) Pistols and Revolvers

Any original or replica muzzle loading pistol or revolver with contemporary sights.

Rifled single shot percussion pistols shall have sights contemporary to the 19th Century, i.e.

Front sights shall be pinhead, narrow blade of maximum width 2.03 mm (0.080"), narrow pyramid or similar, but not broad modern pistol type.

Rear sights shall have only U or V form sight notches.

The front sights of revolvers may be of any height to assist aiming at 25m or 50m, provided that the original profile is maintained.

Dovetailed front sights are permitted on reproduction revolvers provided that the ends of the tennon are flush with the barrel.

Modern style pistol sights are not permitted.

To prevent the use of revolvers as single shot pistols during the revolver discipline, competitors must load at least 5 chambers for firing each of the first two strings; cylinders may not be removed from revolvers for loading.

Pistols and revolvers are held in one hand only for firing.

e) Clay Target Shotguns

Shotguns to be percussion, flintlock or breechloader, military or civilian, single or double barrelled smooth bore of any calibre.

Slip on butt pads made of leather or other contemporary material (but not rubber) is permitted.

Replicas with choked bores may not be used.

10.3 Ammunition

a) Powder

Only factory made Black Powder be used as a propellant.

Loading firearms from pre-measured single charge containers is obligatory.

b) Wads

To be made from paper, fibre, leather or felt materials only. No plastic wads are permitted in muzzle loading competitions.

c) Bullets

Bullets shall be of a style associated with the period of use of the original firearm namely:

- Flintlock arms – round ball or any type of cylindrical bullet
- Percussion pistols – round ball only
- Percussion revolvers – round ball or picket bullet
- Percussion military rifle – original style expanding bullet
- Percussion free rifles – round ball or any type of cylindrical bullet
- Shotgun – lead (or non-toxic lead substitute of single metals only) shot size must not exceed 2.5mm diameter.

10.4 Accessories

a) Slings

These should be of a contemporary type. They may be adjustable. Single point slings are NOT permitted for muzzle loading rifles.

The sling shall not be fitted to the rifle in such a way that it gives support to the shooter similar to that given by a single point sling.

The two attachment points may not be closer together than 203 mm (8 inches).

In the case of underhammer rifles where there is no wooden fore end, both ends of the sling may be attached to the barrel, but may not be closer to each other than 203 mm (8 inches).

Slings shall be manufactured from leather, canvas or other suitable material available in the 19th century. No modern material such as nylon may be used.

No part of the sling may exceed 63 mm (2.5 inches) in width or 6 mm (0.25 inches) in thickness. Slings may not have double layers or straps attached thereto.

The use of string, leather or cord to tie the sling to the trigger guard is not permitted.

Hooks, buttons or other devices fitted to the jacket to support the sling must not be used.

b) Palm Supports

These must be of a contemporary type and be fitted in a contemporary manner on rifles originally designed to have this attachment.

c) Funnels and Loading Tubes

Long loading tubes may be used in all events, except military, smoothbore, flintlock, musket and military percussion rifle. Short funnels (maximum spout length of 10cm) may be used in all events to avoid spillage of powder.

d) Cleaning / Wiping Rods

These may not be used in military, smoothbore, flintlock or short (range up to 200m) military percussion rifle events.

e) Clothing

- Forbidden clothing in MLAIC competitions:

Heavy shooting trousers of the type used for Olympic events.

Heavy-weight, stiff and inflexible trousers (such as those made of leather or double-weight canvas) that may or may not also have “stays” in the legs to provide additional support, including trousers that use any special devices or means of immobilising or unduly reducing the movement of the shooter’s legs and lower body or artificially improving his performance.

Body braces and back supports, rigid leg and knee supports, rigid wrist and elbow supports. If a competitor needs to wear such supports for medical reasons, his delegate must present medical evidence to the S.G. prior to the event. Under no circumstances are wrist supports permitted in pistol events.

Footwear that extends above the ankle joint in pistol events.

Gloves that extend past the wrist joint in pistol events.

- Permitted clothing

Factory made shooting jackets similar to those used in Olympic events.

Any heavy jacket used for normal wear providing it is not fitted with rigid support.

Shooting trousers made of light-weight, flexible material, such as cotton, with no reinforcement that would give artificial support. On range officer’s request, any shooter wearing all his shooting equipment shall be able to crouch down and come back to shooting position.

Knee pads and/or a reinforced sewn-in seat in the permitted trousers, in cc) above.

Flexible elbow pads and recoil pads made from organic substances.

Shooting mats, in addition to any existing surface on shooting tables, are permitted for prone events.

10.5 Shooting Rules

a) Shooting Positions

Prone and standing positions shall be as defined by ISSF Rules.

In the prone position a competitor will:

- always shoot from the designated firing point.
- lie with his elbows as close to the front of the shooting point as possible.
- support his rifle with both hands, with the butt plate against the shoulder or upper arm, on the outside of the clothing, and all parts of the rifle, sling and the arms below the elbows, including clothing, visibly clear of the ground and other objects.
- have the back of the forward hand 10cm clear of the ground measured from the outside surface of the shooting glove, if one is worn.
- not allow the bottom of the rifle stock pistol grip to touch the inside of the supporting arm.

b) Number of Shots in Competitions

For precision competitions thirteen (13) shots are to be fired within a 30-minute relay. The highest scoring 10 shots are to count.

c) Fouling Shot

One fouling shot may be fired into the backstop and this is to be verbally declared as such to the Range Officer.

d) Snapping of Caps, Flashing of Pans and Firing of Fouling Shots

This must only be done within the 30-minute period allowed for the relay.

e) Loading Incidents

In the event of a loading incident occurring during the relay (i.e. bullet loading without powder, two bullets loaded etc.) the shooter shall obtain permission from the Range Officer before clearing the firearm so that the extra shot is not recorded as one of the permitted 13 shots.

f) Interruption of a Relay

If a relay has to be stopped for any reason, it will be resumed when possible and continue for the unexpired time.

If it is stopped by bad weather or rain and the targets are no longer useable they should be replaced and the relay shot again.

g) Malfunction of Firearms

Any malfunction requiring the assistance of a second party shall terminate any further shooting by the competitor in that event. Any necessary repairs to firearms

during events must be carried within the 30-minute firing period. No substitute firearms may be used for repairs.

h) Aiming marks

Additional markings on targets, such as bright coloured patches to improve visibility of the aiming mark, are not allowed

i) Range Control Commands for Short Range Muzzle Loading Competitions

- The Range Officer shall announce in a voice every competitor can hear, the name of the discipline about to commence, and that all those competitors allocated to that detail must put up their targets forthwith, and with the minimum of delay.
- Competitor's names (or number), the name of the discipline or event number, the target number and detail number must be written in the bottom left hand corner on the Standard 50m ISSF pistol targets. The bottom right hand corner is reserved for the scoring.
- Ensuring that all targets are up, and that all competitors are on the firing line, the Range Officer will declare in a voice that every competitor can hear: *"THE RANGE IS CLOSED"*. The Range Officer should note on a sheet of paper, the names of each competitor and their target numbers, and discipline in case of crossfires, etc.
- In the same loud voice: *"YOU HAVE 5 MINUTES TO PREPARE"* which will mean that scopes, mats, powder, caps, etc. may be made ready, weapons cleaned or adjusted in readiness for the next command.
- *"ARE YOU READY?"* if any competitors declare that they are not ready, a further 2 minutes will be allowed, which will be announced in a voice that every competitor can hear. No more time will be allowed.
- After one or two minutes: *"YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES FOR 13 SHOTS, BEST TEN TO COUNT"* (TWO WHISTLE BLASTS) – caps may only be snapped once the detail has been started. Fouling shots must be declared and are shot during the allocated shooting time.
- Two courtesy calls will be given by the Range Officer:
"15 MINUTES"
"5 MINUTES LEFT"
- After the allocated time, ONE LONG WHISTLE BAST will mean that the event is OVER. In the event of a competitor already having commenced loading a shot at this time, he will declare it to the Range Officer who will allow him to complete the load and discharge it into the backstop under supervision of the Range Officer without undue delay. This shot shall NOT count as a scoring shot. Any shots remaining unfired will be deemed as misses. A temporary cease-fire shall be signalled by a series of SHORT WHISTLE BLASTS.
- The Range Officer will personally check each rifle and pistol to see that there are not caps on nipples, and that hammers are at half-cock, and that rifles are in the vertical position in a proper stand, and pistols (as for rifles) but lying on the bench with action uppermost and pointing down-range, revolvers (as for rifles) lying on the bench pointing down-range.

- In a voice that every competitor can hear: *“THE RANGE IS SAFE – YOU MAY GO FORWARD”* which means that competitors may advance to their targets. (The collecting of targets will depend on the Match Director, such as Provincials, Nationals, Trials, etc.)
- The Range Officer will remain at the firing point at all times. A delegated score keeper accompanies the competitors to the targets and immediately removes every target, the competitors being permitted reasonable time to ascertain the number of striking shots, etc.
- Targets are marked by the appointed score keepers and the scores entered in the register.
- It is the sole responsibility of the Range Officer(s) to ensure that there are red flags flying at the firing point and at the target area. It is not necessary to lower the red flag at a firing point during a target change. Red flags will fly from the moment the range is occupied by shooters as a warning of a dangerous area.

11. MUZZLE LOADING EVENTS SANCTIONED BY THE BPSU OF SA

11.1 Short Range Events

Miquelet – Military Smoothbore Flintlock Musket.

- 200m French Military rifle target.
- Standing / Off Hand: 50m.

Pennsylvania – Free Flintlock rifle, any calibre.

- 50m ISSF Pistol target.
- Standing / Off Hand: 50m.

Lamarmora / Minié – Military Percussion Rifle over 13.5mm (.5315”) bore.

- 50m ISSF Pistol target.
- Standing / Off Hand: 50m.
- Prone: 100m.
- 25m RFP target.
- Prone: 200m.

Vetterli / Whitworth – Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Lamarmora / Minié).

- 50m ISSF Pistol target.
- Standing / Off Hand: 50m.
- Prone: 100m.
- 25m RFP Target.
- Prone: 200m.

Soper / Ferris - Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Lamarmora / Minié) – Juniors only.

- 50m ISSF Pistol Target.
- Standing / Off Hand: 50m
- Prone: 100m.

Kuchenreuter – Free Single Shot Percussion Pistol.

- 50m ISSF Pistol Target.
- Any calibre rifled pistol with 19th century contemporary sights.
- Standing at 25m, shooting with one hand only.

Jun - Free Single Shot Percussion Pistol – Juniors only.

- 50m ISSF Pistol Target.
- Any calibre rifled pistol with 19th century contemporary sights.
- Standing at 25m, shooting with one hand only.

Mariette I / Colt (O) – Free Percussion Revolver.

- 50m ISSF target.
- Any calibre with contemporary sights, height of foresight unlimited, but profile must be or original style.
- Standing at 25m, shooting with one hand only.

Cominazzo – Free Flintlock Pistol, any calibre.

- 50m ISSF target.
- Any calibre rifled pistol with 19th century contemporary sights.
- Standing at 25m, shooting with one hand only.

Classic Handgun.

- 50m ISSF Pistol target.
- Minimum calibre 8.2mm (.32")
- Any original or reproduction multishot service handgun, dating pre-1945.
- Original sights, standard trigger, overall conforming to the original style.
- Standing at 25m, shooting with one hand only.
- Metallic cartridges only.
- No firearm that qualifies for any other MLAIC handgun event allowed.

Donald Malson – Free Percussion Revolver.

- 50m ISSF target.
- Any calibre with contemporary sights, height of foresight unlimited, but profile must be of original style.
- Standing at 50m.
- Bullet: Round ball or picket bullet

Hawken – Traditional Class

- 50m ISSF target.
- Fixed / flip up sights, steel / brass back plate, wooden stock, patch ball or bullets not exceeding 2x calibre, black powder only.
- No slings; shooting- or specially designed clothing prohibited.
- Standing / Off Hand 50m.
- Prone 100m.

Hawken – Modern Class

- 50m ISSF target.
- Percussion, no peep- or telescopic sights, any other sights, any bullet.
- No bolt action, must have a historic undertone, any clothing.
- Standing / Off Hand 50m.
- Prone 100m.

Bolt Action Military Service Rifle

- 50m ISSF target.
- Bolt action, calibre 303.
- No telescopic or optical back sights allowed; front sights must conform to the original sight, i.e. narrow blade.
- Modern propellant / gun powder allowed.
- Prone 100m / 200m.

Lorenzoni – Free Percussion Shotgun, any calibre

- O and R

- A total of 50 clay targets shot in two separate rounds (on the same day) on different ranges where possible, of 25 clay targets over 5 stands within a 60-minute detail. Where different ranges cannot be utilised, the same conditions should apply to all competitors.

Mortimer - Free percussion shotgun, any calibre – Juniors only.

- A total of 25 clays in a single round over 5 stands within a 60-minute detail.

Manton – Free Flint Shotgun, any calibre

- O and R
- A total of 50 clay targets shot in two separate rounds (on the same day) on different ranges where possible, of 25 clay targets over 5 stands within a 60-minute detail. Where different ranges cannot be utilised, the same conditions should apply to all competitors.

Breechloading Shotgun, any calibre

- O and R
- A total of 50 clay targets shot in two separate rounds (on the same day) on different ranges where possible, of 25 clay targets over 5 stands within a 60-minute detail. Where different ranges cannot be utilised, the same conditions should apply to all competitors.

11.2 Short Range Team Events

Enfield: 3 x Lamarmora (O and R mixed), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Magenta: 3 x Minié (O and R mixed), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Pforzheim: 3 x Vetterli (O and R mixed), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Rigby: 3 x Whitworth (O and R mixed), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Forsyth: 3 x Kuchenreuter (R only), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Peterlongo: 3 x Mariette (R only), total score out of 300 (nominated teams)

Batesville: 3 x Lorenzoni (O and R mixed), total score out of 150

Hawker: 3 x Manton (O and R mixed), total score out of 150

Mid-Range: separate match, consisting of 4 shooters shot over 300m, 500m and 600m

Long Range: separate match, consisting of 4 shooters shot over 800m and 900m

11.3 Awarding of Short Range Medals

Individual Events:

1 entry – no medal

Up to 3 entries – Gold medal only

Up to 5 entries – Gold and silver medal

More than 5 entries – Gold, silver & bronze medals

Team Events:

1 team – no medal

2 and 3 teams – Gold medal only

3 and 4 teams – Gold and silver medals

More than 5 teams – Gold, silver & bronze medals

11.4 Mid Range Events

Minié Mid Range Total – Military Percussion Rifle over 13.5 mm (.5315”) bore.

- 300m, 500m, and 600m SABU (1995) targets.

- Barrels may be wiped out between shots.

- Three (3) convertible sighters and ten (10) shots for record.

Metford Mid Range Total – Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Minié).

- 300m, 500m and 600m SABU (1995) targets.

- Three (3) convertible sighters and ten (10) shots for record for 300, 500m and 600m.

11.5 Long Range Events

Whitworth Long Range Total – Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Minié).

- 700m, 800m and 900m SABU (1995) targets.
- Five (5) convertible sighters and ten (10) or fifteen (15) shots for record.

11.6 Mid and Long Range Aggregate

Wistow – Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Minié).

- 300m, 500m, 600m, 800m and 900m aggregate.

11.7 Mid and Long Range Team Event

Gen De Wet Interprovincial Teams – Free Percussion Rifle (not qualifying for Minié).

- 300m, 500m, 600m, 800m and 900m aggregate.
- Four (4) shooters per team. Non-shooting coach optional.

12. RULES FOR CLAY TARGET COMPETITIONS

12.1 Shooting Stands

Stands should be at the same level as the top of the trap house and should be marked by either a 700cm square or circle.

For the percussion layout there should be 5 stands 8 meters behind the point where the clay target's flight intersects the level of the stands.

Stands should be located 70° left, 35° left, central, 35° right and 70° right of the axis of the flight of the clay targets.

Loading tables shall be provided 3 metres behind the central stand.

12.2 Clay Launcher (see also MLAIC Clay Target Competition Rules)

The point of emergence of the clay from the trap house and the approximate point of landing are to be clearly marked in a manner that is visible from all stands.

The clay launcher should be set to throw centrally with the clay target landing at 60 + 5 meters from the point at which the flight of the clay intersects the level at 10 meters forward of this point of intersection.

Whenever possible a voice activated clay target launcher will be used.

In the case of malfunction of the launcher, the Range Officer shall decide on whether to replace the machine, continue or stop the event.

12.3 Clay Targets

The clay targets shall be of the standard type used for Olympic trap shooting.

12.4 Spectators

Spectators must be at least 3 meters behind the loading tables.

Spectators may not speak to the shooters or assist them in any way during the relay.

12.5 Range Officer and Arbitrators

The Range Officer controls the shooting with the assistance of three arbitrators. These officials are the only people allowed to intervene if a shooter is experiencing difficulties.

The arbitrator signals a missed clay by raising an arm after a competitor has fired.

The Range Officer observes the arbitrator's signals and if there is a disagreement, makes a decision and calls out the results for all to hear.

12.6 Clay Target Shooting Rules

Provincial and National competitions shall consist of two rounds of 25 clay targets each with a total score of 50. Total time allowed for a maximum of 6 shooters will be 60 minutes.

Original and replica shotguns may be shot in the same relay.

Only one shot may be taken at each clay target.

Double-barrelled shotguns may be used with only 1 barrel being loaded at a time.

The following misfires will be allowed without penalty:

- Three misfires per round for flintlock shotguns.
- One misfire per round for percussion shotguns.
- One misfire in each additional tie shoot-off round (for both flintlock and percussion).

For each misfire and extra clay target will be launched at the same stand.

If a misfire is due to the mechanical failure of the shotgun (i.e. other than due to ignition) an allowed extra misfire will be granted.

If a shooter fires before the command "Pull" is given, it will be scored as a miss.

Prior to the start of each round one clay target will be launched in full view of all the shooters in that round.

If the launcher is repaired or replaced a further trial clay will be launched.

If a clay target is not launched immediately on the command "Pull", the shooter may refuse to shoot without incurring a penalty, but he must make his intention clear by raising his shotgun.

The allocation of stands shall be predetermined by the official statistician(s). Each shooter shall fire his first shot in the sequence determined by the draw and thereafter in any order as soon as ready.

After each shot shooters will proceed to the next stand in anti-clockwise direction.

Shooters must have the authorisation of the Range Officer before calling "Pull".

Competitors shall proceed without interruption unless disrupted by technical difficulties. The Range Officer may stop the shooting due to inclement weather or technical difficulties and resume the round later, on the same day, at the point where it was stopped. The time will be stopped and recorded and will resume as soon as it is deemed safe to do so or technical difficulties have been resolved. Should it not be

possible to resume on the same day, the relay will be cancelled and if possible started fresh on another day. Should an extra day not be available, and all competitors have shot at least one round of 25, then, at the discretion of the Range Officer and the organising committee, the available scores can be used to determine the awarding of medals. Even if some participants have shot two rounds and other not, only the 1st round's score will be considered. Such scores cannot be doubled to achieve a score out of 50 for determining new national or provincial records. In case of inclement weather or technical difficulties, team event scores may also be shortened to a score out of 75 to obtain a result, provided all the participants have had the opportunity to shoot at least one round. Should a second round not be possible for all participants, only the 1st round's scores will be considered. Such shortened scores for team events will also not be considered for national or provincial records.

When there are 4 or less original or replica shotguns entered in an event, and at the discretion of the organising committee, a Mixed Event may be declared and only one set of positions/medals/certificates awarded. Any records achieved will still be considered and recorded as either original or replica.

If a shooter is not present when his name is called prior to the commencement of a round, the Range Officer will call out the shooter's name three times within a minute. If there is no response the round will commence without that shooter. The missing shooter will only be allowed to shoot later if space permits.

In the case of major mechanical breakdown of a shotgun, which cannot be repaired quickly, the shooter must leave his round. He may be allowed to complete his round later if space permits. If the shotgun can be repaired before the end of the round, the competitor may resume shooting with the permission of the Range Officer, but will forfeit any shots not fired within the time limit of that round. After a misfire a shotgun may be unloaded or fired to clear the barrel, subject to the authorisation of the Range Officer.

The normal number of shooters squadded for a relay is 6. This may be increased to a maximum of 8 with an additional 10 minutes per shooter being added to the normal 60 minutes round. See MLAIC Rules for Flintlock rules.

Loading may only be carried out at the loading tables. When walking from the loading table to the stands, shooters must carry their shotguns with the muzzles pointed upwards. Fully cocking and capping may only be done at the shooting stand with the barrel pointed downrange just prior to firing.

Shooters may only shoot when it is their turn to do so and after the clay target has been released. Aiming and / or shooting at other shooter's clays are forbidden.

The shooter may mount the shotgun in the shoulder or start from the shotgun down position as preferred before calling "Pull". When firing, shooters must use safety spectacles and hearing protection. When the shooter is ready to fire he may with the permission of the Range Officer give the order "Pull". The shooter may also ask "Ready?" but nothing else.

A clay target will be deemed broken, when, after being correctly launched and shot according to the rules, at least one visible part flies away. A clay target will be deemed missed and score zero if:

- It is not broken during flight
- The shooter does not fire because he has:
 - ~ the shotgun in the half cock position
 - ~ forgotten to load cap or fully cock the shotgun or lost the cap
 - ~ not seen the clay target
 - ~ had a misfire in excess of the permitted number
 - ~ or touches the lock of the shotgun before it is checked by the Range Officer following a misfire or technical fault.

The clay target will be deemed “No Bird” and another clay will be granted to the shooter whether he has fired or not if:

- The clay breaks on launching
- Two or more birds are launched together
- The flight is not straight or is irregular or too slow.
- The clay is a different colour to preceding clays.
- The clay is not immediately launched on the order “Pull” providing the shooter indicates his intention not to shoot by raising his shotgun.

If a misfire or default is due to mechanical breakdown of the shotgun, lock or hammer or if the shooter has been obviously hindered by a third party.

12.7 Ties

Any ties within the top six individual places will be determined by a shoot-off, with the tied shooters each shooting five clays.

The team score will be determined by the longest unbroken string taken from the final relay of any one of the 3 men in the team.

12.8 Shotguns

Shotguns may be percussion or flintlock military or smoothbore, single or double barrelled and of any calibre. Replicas with choked bores are forbidden for competition.

Slip-on butt pads made of leather or other contemporary material (but not rubber) is permitted. Any other addition to the butt is forbidden.

12.9 Loads

Only factory made Black Powder is permitted.

Lead (or non-toxic lead substitutes of single metals only) shot size not to exceed 2.5mm diameter. Loads must not exceed normal Proof Table Service Loads for the calibre of the shotgun up to a maximum of 6.2 grams (3.5 drams) of Black Powder and 35 grams (1.25 oz) of shot. Loading of powder and shot must be from pre-measured single charge containers.

Loading must be in accordance with contemporary methods. No plastic wads may be used.

12.10 Protests

If the shooter or Team Captain does not agree with the Range Officer over a miss, one of them should immediately lodge a claim by raising one arm and shouting "Protest". The Range Officer will then immediately suspend shooting and consult the Arbitrators and give a final decision.

It shall not be permissible to recover a Clay Target to check if it is broken or not.

If a shooter or Team Captain does not agree with the shooter's score one of them should immediately lodge a complaint to the range office who will consult with the Arbitrators and give a final decision.

An appeal against a Range Officer's decision can be lodged with the Arbitration Committee of the match, but no appeal can be made over whether or not a clay was broken as the Range Officer's decision is final in this matter.

12.11 Penalties

All shooters shall be deemed to know the rules and must accept beforehand all penalties that may result from violations thereof or from disobeying the Range Officer's instructions.

If a violation of the rules is deliberate, the shooter may be disqualified.

If a shooter hinders another by his attitude, conduct or words the Range Officer will warn the shooter.

If the offence is repeated the shooter may be penalised by the deduction of one or two points from his or her score, as decided appropriate by the Range Officer and the Arbitration Committee.

A shooter firing a shotgun before reaching the shooting stand will be committing a severe breach of the safety rules and will be disqualified.

12.12 Awarding of Medals for Clay Target Events

Winning order shall be determined from a score out of 50 (two rounds of 25), unless the event is shortened due to inclement weather or technical difficulties (*supra*). The minimum number of entries as for rifle and handgun events applies.

Lorenzoni:

Original – Gold, silver & bronze

Replica – Gold, silver & bronze

Overall (Original & Replica mixed) – Gold, silver & bronze ONLY if there is a sufficient number of entries for both classes (refer to Section 11.3)

Mixed Event (Original & Replica mixed) – Gold, silver & bronze ONLY if there is a sufficient number of entries for both classes (refer to Section 11.3)

Manton:

Original – Gold, silver & bronze

Replica – Gold, silver & bronze

Overall (Original & Replica mixed) – Gold, silver & bronze ONLY if there is a sufficient number of entries for both classes (refer to Section 11.3)

Mixed Event (Original & Replica mixed) – Gold, silver & bronze ONLY if there is a sufficient number of entries for both classes (refer to Section 11.3)

Batesville:

Original and Replica may be mixed in the same team – Gold, silver & bronze

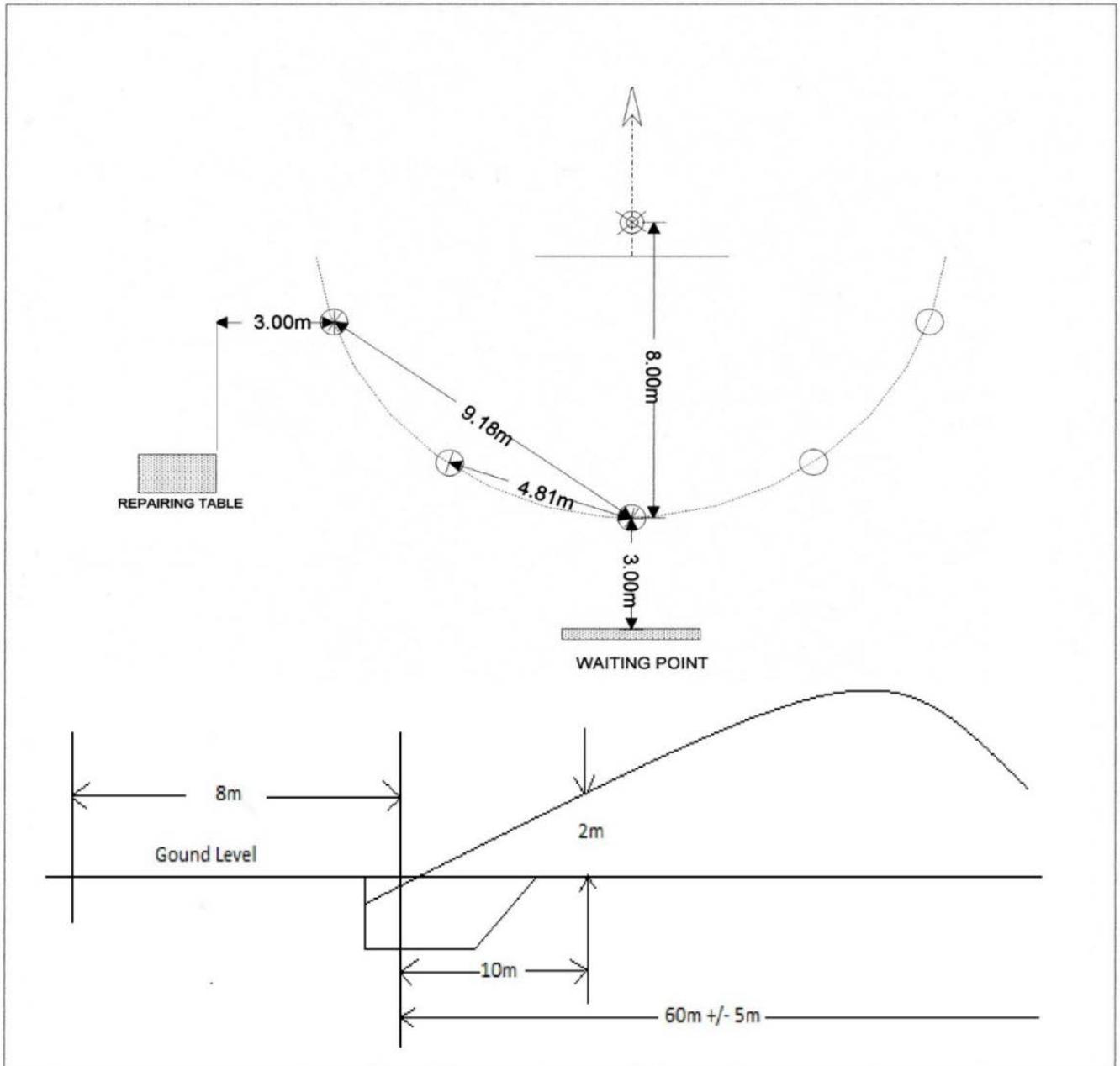
Hawker:

Original and Replica may be mixed in the same team – Gold, silver & bronze

12.13 Safety Restrictions

For safety reasons only muzzle loading shotguns may be shot together in the same relay.

12.14 Clay Target Shooting Layout – Dimensions in Metres



13. GENERAL BLACK POWDER SHOOTING SAFETY REGULATIONS

Smoking is absolutely forbidden on the firing line.

The snapping of caps or the flashing of pans before the “Open Fire” signal is not permitted. Firearms may only be capped or primed with the barrel pointing downrange.

All firearms are to be uncapped or unprimed and placed in a safe position during a “Temporary Cease Fire”. All firearms are to be unloaded upon the “Cease Fire” signal and before retiring from the firing line.

Powder in bulk is not allowed on the firing point. Powder charges must be in pre-measured single charge containers. Priming flasks containing no more than 16.2 grams (250 grains) of powder may be used. Powder should be kept away from direct sunlight.

Percussion caps, being sensitive and dangerous, should be protected from accidental ignition by heat or sparks. Only a minimal quantity should be taken to the firing point and containers be kept closed when firing.

Care should be taken when loading to ensure that the projectile is firmly seated on to the powder charge to prevent damage to the barrel.

The use of safety spectacles, tinted or otherwise, is mandatory.

Corrective shooting lenses are permitted.

The use of hearing protection by shooters and Range Officers is mandatory.

Original firearms must be in a safe shooting condition.

Replica arms must be of reliable construction and in a safe condition.

Loads must never exceed the normal service loads applicable to modern black powder.

In the event of a misfire the competitor must keep the firearm pointing towards the target for at least one minute. After that it should be kept pointing at the target when possible, while the problem is being attended to and never turned towards another shooter or spectator.

If the competitor cannot clear a mistake or malfunction, he or she must inform the Range Officer before taking further action.

In flintlock events, the organisers should ensure that protection from vent flashes is installed between shooters.

Spectators must remain at least three metres behind the firing point and remain quiet when shooting is in progress. No one other than the Range Officer, shall be permitted to speak to competitors during competitions.

In the event of a loading incident occurring (e.g. bullet without powder, two bullets loaded, etc) the shooter should seek the permission of the Range Officer before clearing the firearm.

Each shooter is responsible for the proper functioning of his or her firearm and equipment.

Only factory made black powder may be used. No black powder substitute may be used.

It is mandatory to seal the chambers of revolvers with grease after loading the projectiles to prevent chain-firing occurring.

14. ORGANISATION OF MID- & LONG RANGE MUZZLE LOADING MATCHES (i.e. 300-900m)

14.1 Ranges

Events are to be held on ranges equipped with proper butts facilities which enable targets to be safely and properly marked and shot values to be indicated.

14.2 Shooting Position

All shooting shall be from the prone position except in the case of physically disabled shooters who are unable to assume the prone position. In such instance the Range Officer may allow the use of another shooting position provided he considers it to be safe.

The shooter will always shoot from the built-up firing points at the respective distances at which competitors are being held.

Shooting positions are designated as for Short Range Muzzle Loading shooting.

Wrist rests (rifle supports) and the use thereof in 700-900m events is specified in accordance to the MLAIC rules for long range shooting.

14.3 Squadding

Competitors will be squadded 2 or 3 per target and shall fire in a sequence to be agreed upon amongst themselves.

A time of 60 minutes will be specified for a pair of shooters firing alternately to complete an event. If 3 shooters are allocated per target an additional 30 minutes will be allowed.

14.4 Targets and Ring Values

The 1995 SABU 300–900m range of targets specified in these Rules shall be used for competitions. These present a circular aiming mark against a white background.

At each distance the target has 3 circular scoring zones with scoring values of 3 to 5 points. Hits on the rest of the target outside these circles score 2 points. The bull (5 ring) has an inner circle marked in it with a dotted line and this is known as the V-Bull.

In individual and team matches, V-Bulls will be marked throughout the meeting. Whilst retaining the value of 5 points, a V-Bull will be entered on the scorecard with the letter V and the number of V-Bulls and their position in a string of shots will be criteria in the counting out of tied scores.

The colloquial names for the scoring ring are:

V-Bull	=	5 points
Bull's-eye	=	5 points
Inner	=	4 points
Magpie	=	3 points
Outer	=	2 points
Miss	=	0 points

14.5 Marking and Signalling

All mid and long range events are deliberate fire competitions with each shot marked and signalled separately.

A value marker being placed on the face of the target in the following positions indicates the value of each shot.

A miss is indicated when the target is shown not reflecting any value or point of impact after the target has been examined for a bullet hole.

Placing a spotting disc over the bullet hole indicates the actual position of the shot. Dimensions of spotting discs for the various distances are as follows:

300m:	10cm in diameter
500–600m:	15cm in diameter
700–900m:	20cm in diameter

The face of the spotting discs should be sprayed with Day-Glo fluorescent red, pink or orange spray paint.

The diameter of the dowel peg should be different for the .577 and .450 calibre events so that the shot holes are not enlarged.

The pegs should be turned down to .58 and .45 inch calibre respectively for these events.

Dimensions of the square shaped value markers for the different distances are as follows:

300m:	150 mm ²
500 & 600m:	250 mm ²
700m, 800m & 900m:	300 mm ²

The value markers should be painted black and they should be displayed against the white background of the face of the target.

14.6 Shot Marking Procedure

Immediately a shot is fired into a target it will be lowered by the marker. The new shot hole will be located and marked with the spotting disc. The previous holes will then be patched. A shot value marker will then be affixed to the face of the target showing the value of the last shot and the target will be raised. The sequence will be followed for every shot.

14.7 Marker's Duties

Markers should watch for the bullet impact on the butt-stop behind the target and not look for a shot strike on the raised target. Confusion can arise if shots are heard to strike adjacent targets and are thought by a marker to be on his target.

15.8 Scoring

A shot fired on a wrong target will be scored as a miss.

If two shots strike the target during one exposure, the competitor who fired in his proper turn will be credited with the higher value. Only the higher value shall be signalled, but both shots will be marked.

The signalled value of a shot may be challenge once only by the firer, before another shot is fired at that target.

The target must be lowered and examined by the Butt Officer even if he can clearly see on the raised target that the challenge will be unsuccessful.

A shot hole that marks (with a leaded ring) or cuts the line of a scoring ring will be accorded the next highest ring value.

If the target is moved vertically at the moment a shot is fired, but not by the wind from side to side, the firer will be permitted to immediately fire another shot. The protest must be lodged immediately when the incident occurs and must have been observed by one of the other competitors.

If the spotting disc position disagrees unmistakably with the value signalled, the register keeper must immediately inform the Range Officer of the error and the Butt Officer will be requested to visibly correct the marking of the target before another shot is fired on that target.

If the spotting disc remains in the same place as signalled for the previous shot, the firer is entitled to request the Range Officer to confirm with the butts that the last two shots were close to each other. If they were not, the marking error must be corrected.

It is the responsibility of every competitor to bring to the attention of the register keeper and the Range Officer any anomalies or incorrect marking before the next shot is fired on the target concerned.

It is an offence, punishable by disqualification, to knowingly claim or accept points that have not been scored or to connive at such conduct with another competitor.

Only persons employed in the butts, the Range Officer or his deputy and members of the BPSU's Executive Committee will be permitted to examine a target during the meeting. Under no circumstances will the competitor be allowed to examine his target.

A ricochet that hits the target shall be regarded as a hit. If it makes an elongated hole the end closest to the centre of the target shall be taken as the point of strike. The competitor will be informed that a ricochet has been marked.

14.9 Ties

In all mid and long range competitions a score will include the arithmetical sum of all the shot values and number of V-Bulls.

In the event of ties the highest V-Bull count will win.

If there are equal numbers of V-Bulls, then the tie will be resolved by counting out by comparing the values of the last scoring shot and if still a tie each preceding shot in order until the tie is broken.

In team events, the same procedure will apply. If the team tie is not resolved by V-Bull count then the sum of the scoring shots fired by the team will be compared in descending order from the last series of scoring shots fired at the longest distance.

14.10 Rifle Regulations

Competitors may not exchange a rifle during a relay.

Mechanical problems in a rifle during a relay must be reported to the Range Officer before the shooter attempt to repair the fault. If the Range Officer is satisfied the problem can be fixed with safety he will allow the firer to temporarily leave the firing point to rectify the fault and to re-join the shoot provided there is sufficient remaining time.

A Range Officer is empowered at any time to inspect a rifle if he suspects it might not be safe to fire or that it does not qualify in terms of the specifications of the type of firearms which is eligible, instruct the shooter to stop firing and request the Arbitration Committee to rule on the matter.

The mass of muzzle loading rifles used in mid and long-range event may not exceed 5.454kg or 12lbs.

A competitor in any event may not use a rifle or handgun already used by another competitor in the same event, unless direct family ties are reported, i.e. father and son, husband and wife etc.

14.11 Course of Fire

300m	3 convertible sighters	+	10 shots for record
500m	3 convertible sighters	+	10 shots for record
600m	3 convertible sighters	+	10 shots for record
700m	5 convertible sighters	+	10 or 15 shots for record
800m	5 convertible sighters	+	10 or 15 shots for record
900m	5 convertible sighters	+	10 or 15 shots for record

14.12 Slings

Military and Free Muzzle loading rifles may only be shot with a double point slings. The two attachment points may not be closer together than 15 cm (6 inches).

14.13 Wiping of Barrels

Barrels of Military Percussion rifles used in mid and long-range events may be brushed and wiped out between shots.

14.14 Safety

The wearing of safety glasses and hearing protection is compulsory when shooting is in progress for anyone within 3 meters of the firing shot.

15. HISTORICAL BREECHLOADING SMALL FIREARMS COMPETITIONS

15.1 Introduction

The BPSU is the governing body for the competitive shooting of historical breechloading small firearms in South Africa. Its aims are to encourage the appropriate

and safe use of these firearms in South Africa for competition and recreation in meetings of the BPSU and those of its affiliated clubs.

15.2 Safety and Shooters' Responsibilities

Historical breechloading firearms have generally been in use for many years. It is therefore recommended that great care be taken when loading ammunition for them, taking into consideration the age, design and the materials used in their construction. It is the shooter's responsibility to ensure that the ammunition used in them is suitable for the firearms in question, that the firearm is in a serviceable and safe condition and that firing it will not be hazardous to either the shooter or others in the vicinity of the shooter.

15.3 Classification of Historical Firearms for Competition

Classification of firearms is necessary in order to define their eligibility for shooting under BPSU Rules and to enable competitions to be organised between firearms of a similar capability. The principal criteria used for classification of breechloading firearms for competitions are their age, their calibre, their type and their ammunition.

This classification does not cover the entire historical breechloading firearms, but is restricted to those which are relatively common in South Africa and are relatively easily acquired by historical firearms shooters. In essence, the broad classification of these firearms is as follows:

Historical Breechloading Rifles: A firearm with a rifled barrel designed for shooting from the shoulder (but not a shoulder stocked pistol) manufactured for a pattern in production before the end of 1945.

Historical Breechloading Pistols: Firearms which are designed for shooting with one hand. This term encompasses single shot pistols, revolvers and self-loading pistols of a pattern and chambering in production before the end of 1945.

15.4 Classification of Historical Breechloading Rifles For BPSU Events

a) By Age

Vintage Rifles: These are rifles manufactured to a pattern in production before the end of 1890 and chambered for a contemporaneous cartridge. Where re-barrelled the rifling type and barrel material shall be contemporaneous with the arm. The ammunition used in these firearms shall contain only factory made black powder and the bullets shall be of a contemporaneous design, e.g. Snider-Enfield, Martini-Henry 577/450, Gibbs-Farquharson, Metford, Trapdoor Springfield, Mauser Model 1871, Sharps 1874, Lee-Metford MK1, etc.

Classic Rifles: These are rifles manufactured to a pattern introduced and in production after the end of 1890 and before the end of 1918 and chambered for a contemporaneous cartridge or to an earlier pattern but being used with ammunition loaded with a propellant other than black powder alone. Duplex loads are permitted. Where re-barrelled the rifling pattern and barrel material shall be contemporaneous with the firearm, e.g. Lee-Enfield SMLE Mk I to IV, Springfield 1903, Krag Jordensen 1896, Swedish Mauser, Argentinian Mauser, Brazilian Mauser, Martini-Henry .303.

Veteran Rifles: Rifles manufactured to a pattern introduced and in production after the end of 1918 and before the end of 1945 or to an earlier pattern, but chambered for a cartridge introduced within that period.

b) By Type

Service Rifle: A rifle which is substantially the same as a regulation pattern adopted by any government for issue to its Regular or Volunteer forces. Sights to be to contemporaneous service pattern iron sights. E.g. Martini-Henry, Snider-Enfield, Lee-Enfield, Military Mausers, etc.

Service Target Rifle: A service rifle fitted with contemporaneous pattern adjustable click adjustment iron back sight and service style blade or barleycorn foresight.

Match Rifle (Vintage): A target rifle equipped with contemporaneous iron sights (no click adjustment is permitted). Propellant shall only be factory manufactured black powder and bullets lead or lead alloy and may be paper patched. No metallic gas checks are allowed. Mass up to 15lbs (6.80kg).

Match Rifle (Classic and Veteran): May be chambered for any contemporaneous cartridge and be equipped with click adjustable iron sights and military blade or ring foresights.

Sporting Rifle: A rifle designed for use in the taking of game and not equipped with a deeply curved or hooked butt plate or a palm rest.

Capping Breechloading Rifles: A breechloading rifle designed to fire a cartridge without a self-contained means of ignition but are used with a separate external percussion cap.

Note: This class of rifle is not presently eligible for any BPSU events, e.g. Westley Richards Monkeytail.

c) By Calibre

Small Bore: Calibre less than 0.32 inches (8.00mm) e.g. 7x57, 8x57, .303, 6.6x55.

Medium bore: Calibre between 0.32 inches (8.00mm) and 0.476 inches (12.09mm) e.g. 38/55, 577/450, 11.15mm.

Large bore: Calibre greater than 0.53 inches (13.5mm) e.g. 577 Snider, 8 bore B.P., Maastricht Snider.

d) By Ammunition

Vintage Class: Only ammunition loaded solely with black powder may be used. Duplex loads are not permitted. Bullets to be lead or lead alloy without metallic gas checks.

Classic Class: Ammunition may be duplex loaded (e.g. 8mm Guedes Steyr) with black powder and a smokeless powder priming charge. Mostly however, Classic Class ammunition is loaded with smokeless powder propellants. Bullets may be lead or lead alloy, or jacketed with copper-nickel or other modern jacketing alloys.

Veteran Class: Ammunition may be hand loaded or be factory made rounds with smokeless powder propellant and jacketed bullets.

15.5 Classification of Historical Breechloading Pistols

a) By Age

Vintage Pistol: Any breechloading pistol of a pattern, including its chambering, in production before the end of 1890 and without significant modification. Ammunition: Propellant shall be factory manufactured black powder only. Bullets shall also be of a contemporaneous design.

Classic Pistol: Any breechloading pistol of a pattern, including its chambering, in production after the end of 1890, but before the end of 1945 or have an earlier pattern but propellant, and without significant modification.

b) By Type

Service Revolver: Any breechloading revolver substantially the same as a regulation pattern issued by any government to its Regular or Volunteer Armed Forces.

Vintage Class: Colt .45", Webley New Model Army Express, S&W Model No 3 Russian.

Classic Class: Colt and S&W .45", Webley .455".

Veteran Class: Not catered for by BPSU.

Service Self Loading Pistol: Any breechloading self-loading pistol substantially the same as a regulation pattern issued by any Government to its Regular or Volunteer Armed Forces.

Examples: Classic Class: .45" Colt M1911, 9mm Parabellum Pistol 1908 (Luger), 8mm Roth Steyr, Broomhandle Mauser 9mm.

c) By Ammunition

Vintage: Classification of a pistol as Vintage is dependent on it being fired with cartridges loaded with black powder alone as the propellant. Duplex loads are not permitted.

15.6 Shooting Positions for Breechloading Rifle Events

Prone – the body is extended on the ground with the head towards the target. Both hands shall support the rifle with the butt plate against the shoulder. The rifle sling is used, and both arms below the elbows shall be visibly clear of the ground. The forward hand and glove (if worn) must be at least 100mm above the ground.

Supine – Body is extended on the ground with feet towards the target. NOTE: This position is only permitted for Match Rifle competition and in the case of handicapped shooters who cannot shoot in the prone position and who have had their use of this position approved by the Match Director and/or BPSU Exco after formal application has been tendered by the prospective user.

Sitting – Weight of the body is supported on the buttocks and the legs, feet and ankles. No part of the body above the buttocks may touch the ground. Legs may be apart or crossed and may extend forward of the front edge of the firing point. Both hands shall support the rifle with the butt-plate against the shoulder. The shooter's arms may rest on the legs at any point above the ankles.

Kneeling – No part of the body may touch the ground except one foot and the other leg from the knee downwards. The buttocks may rest on the rearward foot. Both hands shall support the rifle with the butt-plate against the shoulder. The forward elbow may rest on the knee.

Standing – Body is erect on both feet. No other portion of the body shall touch the ground or any other object. Both hands shall support the rifle with the butt-plate against the shoulder. The elbow or upper arm of the forward arm may be placed against the body or rested on the hip. The use of rifle slings in the standing position is permissible.

15.7 Range Procedures and Commands for Breechloading Rifle Events

The competitor shall report to the Range Officer 10 minutes before the start of an event and submit his/her name, match details (nature of competition) for recording in the range register.

The Range Officer shall assign competition to targets by a squadding sheet. On the order of the Range Officer competitors may take their equipment on to the firing point and make ready to shoot. Rifles may be taken from cases and/or rifles slips and placed on shooting mats with their actions open for inspection. No rifle may be handled whilst anyone is forward of the firing point.

The Range Officer will inform the competitors of the starting time of the detail 5 minutes before it is to commence. A final warning will be given 1 minute prior to the signal (a whistle blast) being given to commence firing.

No firearms may be loaded before the order is given for the match to commence.

At the end of the allotted period for the event the Range Officer shall give a signal to Cease Fire (a whistle blast) and give the order "Unload and Make Safe" (i.e. unload and open the action). He shall then inspect each rifle to confirm it is unloaded.

Competitors will then be ordered to pack their kit away and vacate the position they occupied on the firing point.

15.8 Range Procedures and Commands for Breechloading Pistol Events

All competitors shall report to the Range Officer 10 minutes before the start of an event and submit his/her name, match details for recording in the range register.

The Range Officer shall assign competitors to targets by a squadding sheet. On the order of the Range Officer competitors may take their shooting equipment on to their assigned positions on the firing point and make ready to shoot.

Pistols will be laid on the shooting bench with breech or cylinder open and unloaded.

The Range Officer will inform the competitors of the starting time of the detail 5 minutes before it is to commence a final warning will be given 1 minute prior to the signal being given to commence firing.

The Range Officer will inform the competitor which event is about to be shot together with the number of rounds of ammunition to be expended.

At the start of the event the Range Officer will then signal the commencement of the event (with a whistle blast) and instruct the competitors to load their pistols and commence firing.

At the end of the allotted period for the event the Range Officer shall give a signal to "Cease Fire" (a single whistle blast) and the instructions "Unload and Make Safe". He shall then inspect each pistol and confirm that it is unloaded.

Competitors will then be ordered to pack away their kit and vacate the position they have occupied on the firing point.

15.9 Scoring of Targets

The Range Officer will give the command to competitors to either advance or score their own targets or to retrieve their targets and hand them in for scoring. NOTE: It is the competitor's responsibility to see that his name appears on the target together with the identity of the competition, which has been shot.

In Vintage breechloading events shot at 25-200m ranges only the centre of the bullet hole must be on the line to score the higher score.

In all other Vintage breechloading firearms events shots at ranges beyond 200m bullet holes, which cut a line, will be awarded the higher score.

In all Classics a Veteran breechloading firearms events shot at any ranges from 25-900m bullet holes which cut a line, will be awarded the higher score.

15.10 Ties

The procedure for counting out ties varies for the different courses of fire. It is as follows:

- a) In the 100m and 200m Vintage Rifle events, ties will be settled by comparison of larger over smaller total number of high value hits, i.e. Bulls, 9s, 8s, 7s, etc. and if a tie still exists by comparing the distances of the furthers lowest value hit with the nearest to the centre of the bull taking precedence. If these distances are equal then the next nearest lowest value hits are to be similarly compared and so on until the tie is broken.
- b) In the 25m Vintage Pistol events ties will be broken as in a).
- c) In the 100m, 200m Classic Rifle events and Vintage, Classic and Veteran Rifle events, ties will be decided on V-bull counts initially. If the tie is not broken in the 100m and 200m events then by the method specified in a).
- d) In the 300–900m Vintage, Classic and Veteran rifle events ties will be counted out firstly by comparison of V-bull counts. If they are the same, then by sequential comparison of the values recorded in reverse order in the string of scoring shots until the tie is broken.

For organisational reasons, ties cannot ordinarily be settled by shoot-off, but this ruling may be waived by match organisers if they wish to have a shoot-off for any breechloading event.

15.11 Safety in The Loading, Transportation and Use of Cartridges

Loaded (primed, propellant filed and bullet seated) cartridges are potentially explosive components of breechloading shooting and the following rules will be strictly observed.

Loaded cartridges which do not chamber with ease with no more than a finger pressure or light pressure on the loading lever or bolt will under no circumstances be forced into the chamber except by means of a safe seating appliance which has to be shown to and be approved by the Range Officer as a safe method.

If a cartridge cannot be seated and jams on loading it into a chamber it may only be cleared under supervision of the Range Officer by use of a ramrod inserted from the muzzle end of the firearm and gentle pressure. Hammering the cartridge out by use of the ramrod on the range is prohibited.

If a primer in a cartridge is not properly seated and interferes with closure of the breech, it shall be discarded. It shall also be disassembled, and propellant removed before any attempt is made to seat the primer deeper in the primer pocket. Deeper seating of primers in loaded cartridges by any other means on the range is prohibited.

Only unloaded cartridge cases may be primed and loaded in the vicinity of the range behind the 3m safety zone behind the firing point using commercial priming tools or custom made pressing tools. Tapping them into their pockets with hammers may not under any circumstances seat primers or any other hand tools on the range at any event held under the auspices of the BPSU or any of its affiliated clubs.

Violation of any of the rules specified under this section may lead to either immediate disqualification of the offender from the match, or his summary eviction from the range or a formal BPSU investigation and disciplinary hearing on all of the actions.

NOTE: Primers are the most dangerous components of breechloading ammunition and may detonate if they are maltreated in any way through ignorance, carelessness, arrogance or familiarity.

15.12 Targets and Course of Fire for Breechloading Events

a) Targets

25m Events:	ISSF 50m Pistol Target
50-100m Events:	ISSF 50m Pistol Target
200m Events:	ISSF 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Target.
300-900m Events:	SABU Targets as specified for full bore shooting in 1995 as per specification in 9.2.

b) Breechloading Events Sanctioned by the BPSU of SA

• Pistol Events

Vintage, Classic and Veteran Pistol (Revolver or Self Loading Pistol).

Precision Fire:

Sighting series:	5 in 5 minutes and patch target.
Scoring series:	2 x 5 shots in 5 minutes each with 2 minutes to reload between each series.

Rapid Fire:

Sighting series:	5 shots in 2 minutes and then patch target.
Scoring series:	4x5 shots in 15 seconds per series with 30 seconds to reload between series.

• Rifle Events

Vintage Medium Bore Breechloader (Martini)

Course of Fire:	
100m:	13 shots best 10 to count for score
200m:	Sighting series: 3 shots to be patched at the end of the sighting series Scoring series: 10 shots
300-600m:	Sighting series: 3 shots convertible for score Scoring series: 10 shots

Vintage Large Bore Breechloader (Snider)

Course of Fire:	
100m:	13 shots, best 10 to count for score Time: 30 minutes

- 200m: Sighting series: 3 shots to be patched at the end of the sighting series
Scoring series: 10 shots
Time: 20 minutes
- 300m: Sighting series: 3 shots convertible for score
Scoring series: 10 shots
Time: 1 hour for a pair of competitors on one target

Vintage Match Rifle (Free Breechloading Target Rifle)

These events are in addition, governed by the Rules of the World Long Range Historical Rifle Shooting for 300 to 900m events.

Courses of Fire:

- 100m: 13 shots best 10 to count
- 200m: Sighting series: 3 shots to be patched at the end of sighting series
- 300-600m: Sighting series: 3 shots (convertible for score)
Scoring series: 10 shots
- 700-900m: Sighting series: 5 shots (convertible for score)
Scoring series: 10 shots

Classic Breechloading Rifle Events

Classic Service Rifle (Precision and Rapid Fire)

Course of Fire:

- Prone 100m: 13 shots, best 10 to count for score
Time: 15 minutes
- Prone 200m: Sighting series: 3 shots to be patched at the end of sighting series
Scoring series: 10 shots
Time: 15 minutes
- Prone 300-600m: Sighting series: 3 shots (convertible for score)
Scoring series: 10 shots
Time: 1 hour for a pair of competitors on one target
- Prone 100m Rapid Fire (The Mad Minute):
Sighting series: 3 shots with patching at the end of sighting series
Scoring series: As many shots as can be fired in 60 seconds starting with magazine unloaded and rifle angled with butt in contact with the ground
- NOTE: The use of stripper clips for loading is permitted in magazine rifles with only 5 rounds being permitted to be loaded into the magazine at any time during the event. The use of cartridge holders affixed to the rifle is not permitted
- 4-Position 100m: Prone, Sitting, Kneeling and Standing
Sighting series: 3 shots to be patched at the end of the sighting series
Scoring series: 5 shots for each position in 5 minutes each

Classic and Veteran Match Rifle

Classic and Veteran (Service) Match Rifle (to be shot as one class in the prone position)

Course of Fire:

- 300 to 600m: Sighting series: 3 shots (convertible)
- 700 to 900m: Sighting series: 5 shots (convertible)
- 300 to 900m: Scoring series: 10 shots

16. BPSU RECORDS

Record scores achieved by Association members will be kept and updated by the BPSU as the record scores are advanced.

Record scores will only be accepted when they are recorded in International, National, Provincial and other events officially held either under the auspices of the BPSU or in events sanctioned by the BPSU and shot under Rules which are in accord with those of the BPSU. Records will be recorded in all events listed in the rules and other which may from time to time be added to this list.

If the targets or Rules specified for BPSU events are changed for any reason a new record series will be begun in accordance with the new conditions under which an event will be held. Certificates will be awarded by the BPSU Management Committee for new records to mark these special achievements. Records will be shared if they are recorded in the same event at a match.

In mid- and long range events record scores will not reflect the number of V-bulls shot. This is only used for resolving ties when equal scores are recorded.

17. SELECTION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

17.1 Constitution

According to the Constitution, the BPSU, represented by its Management Committee, is empowered to establish criteria for the selection of teams to represent South Africa at International meetings and to administer the selection procedure.

17.2 Procedure

Invitation to the BPSU to participate in International Black Powder shooting competitions will be considered by the Management Committee in consultation with the full BPSU Executive Committee.

If it is decided to accept the invitation all members of the BPSU will be notified at the earliest opportunity of the event and be invited to make themselves available for team selection by a given date by return of an entry form.

Criteria for team selection will be circulated with the notice calling for team trialists.

Different criteria will be applied for short range and mid to long range events.

Inclusion in an official team is not guaranteed by merely meeting the qualifying criteria and the Selection Committee may use their discretion to consider additional factors in consultation with the Management Committee.

17.3 Short Range (MLAIC) Events

Trialists will initially be required to equal (or exceed) minimum laid down qualifying scores for each discipline in 4 out of 6 nominated targets shot under supervision of an Executive Committee member or nominated delegate on any accredited range. The scores have to be ratified by signature of said person present on the range when they were shot.

Nominated targets will be signed on the back across the 9 ring by such member before they are shot. Sets of 6 targets will be issued for a discipline and be marked with the trialist's name and be numbered. If a trialist fails to meet the qualifying criteria he/she may apply for a second set of targets. A fee will be levied for the targets and trials entry.

A trialist that meets the qualifying criteria will request his club chairman / secretary to confirm this in writing to the BPSU Management Committee. Upon receipt of this confirmation the trialist will be invited to participate in a Team trial selection shoot to which all pre-qualifiers have been invited.

The final trial selection will be based on the trialist achieving the minimum qualifying scores on a regular basis and participate in any prescribed training events as prescribed by the selection committee until the announcement of the final team.

The minimum qualifying scores to obtain **Senior National Colours** for MLAIC disciplines are as follows:

Lamarmora	(Military Rifle over 13.5mm [0.5315"], 50m standing)	90/100
Minié	(Military ML Rifle, 100m)	90/100
Vetterli	(Free ML Rifle, 50m standing)	92/100
Whitworth	(Free ML Rifle, 100m)	94/100
Kuchenreuter	(Free Single Percussion Pistol, 25m)	94/100
Colt / Mariette	(Percussion Revolver, 25m)	92/100
Donald Malson	(Percussion Revolver, 50m)	78/100
Pennsylvania	(Free Flintlock, any caliber, 50m standing)	90/100
Miquelet	(Smoothbore Flintlock, 50m standing)	88/100
Maximillian	(Smoothbore Flintlock, 100m)	90/100
Lorenzoni	(Shotgun Percussion)	40/50 or a 45/50 shot at least once
Manton	(Shotgun Flintlock)	38/50

The minimum qualifying scores to obtain **Junior National Colours** for MLAIC disciplines are as follows:

Soper	(Free ML Rifle, 50m standing)	90/100
Ferris	(Free ML Rifle, 100m)	92/100
Jun	(Free Single Percussion Pistol, 25m)	92/100
Lorenzoni	(Shotgun Percussion)	38/50

17.4 Pacific Zone (MLAIC) vents

An individual who wishes to compete in the Pacific Zone Postal Championship needs to comply with the same minimum qualifying standards as for qualifying for national colours to participate in MLAIC Short Range World Championships (see Section 17.3).

The following concession will be made:

The qualification process will be waived for members who attained Protea colours for the two (2) Short Range World Championships that precede any Pacific Zone Championship. This will be limited to the events these members participated in at the World Championships.

Members who have not received Protea colours for international participation previously, will be awarded BPSU / Federation colours for participation in the Pacific Zone Championship.

17.5 Mid and Long Range (MLAIC) Events

Trialists will shoot a single target at 300m, 500m, 600m, 800m and 900m at a venue or venues designated by the Selection Committee in consultation with the Management Committee.

The minimum qualifying score is achieving an aggregate over 5 distances, which will average 40 for individual distances in the trials series (i.e 5 x 40 =200 ex 250).

17.6 Selection Committee

A Selection Committee comprising at least three persons who are nominated by the Management Committee will adjudicate the results of the trials and make recommendations to the Management Committee as to who shall be selected to represent South Africa and receive National Colours. The appointed coach shall be one of these selectors.

One of the selectors or a nominated person has to be present on the range at all times when the trials are shot.

The Management Committee will approve the individual members of the National team as soon as the final selection is complete and apply to the South African Sports Council and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) for Protea colours.

17.7 Principle of Team Selection

Teams will be selected on merit as the only selection criterion.

18. ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO SHOOTING RULES

Rules may vary and be ratified annually at the AGM of the BPSU according to the BPSU Constitution.