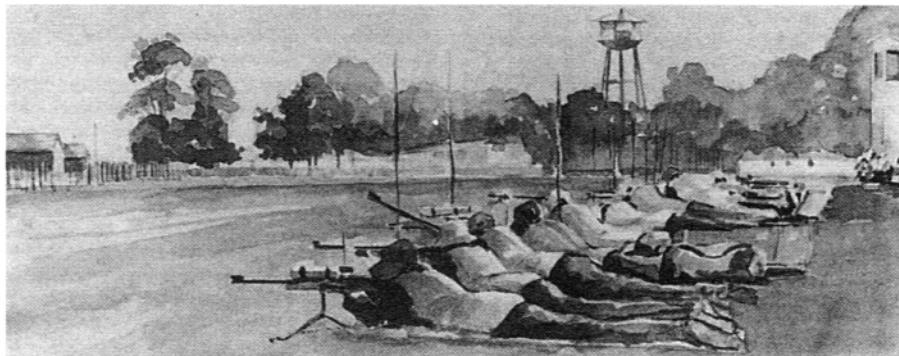


SMALLBORE RIFLE COMPETITION SHOOTING



National Championships
Regional Championships
Sectional Championships
State Championships

Registered Matches
Approved Matches
Club Matches
League Matches
Postal Matches



NRA COMPETITIVE SHOOTING DIVISION
11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030
E-mail: competitions@nra.org
To Join the NRA Call (800) 672-3888

Smallbore Rifle Competition Shooting

Why Shoot Competitively? Because . . .

This is one activity where any person (male or female) can compete on a par with others of their approximate skill level. Shooting is an activity where young and old can and do compete for the same prizes. Competitive shooting is an activity that allows the participants to become as good as the amount of effort they are willing to invest. Shooting is a sport where a person may practice alone or enter a tournament with hundreds of other competitors and the outcome is based **totally on their own ability**. Shooting is an activity where the challenge is always present because a perfect score is rarely fired.

Many individuals become interested in smallbore rifle competition; however, unless they start off with the proper information, they find it difficult to begin. The cost of equipment is generally a stumbling block. Many feel that unless they have the best of everything they cannot compete. This is not true. Most start with a minimum investment of a .22 rifle (new or used), spotting scope with stand, sling, glove and coat, and most important, eye and ear protection. It is also advisable to have a copy of the current NRA Smallbore Rifle Rule Book.

The Purpose of this folder is to give general information on how to get started in the sport of smallbore rifle competition. The information given will answer the most often asked questions that a beginner will have. The NRA stands ready to assist you and if you have any questions we hope you will contact us. For information on smallbore rifle competitions write to the National Rifle Association, Competitive Shooting Division, Rifle Department, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. If you wish you may phone us at (703) 267-1475.

How To Get Started

If you have an interest in taking up the sport of smallbore rifle competition it is recommended that you check the Coming Events Section in the *Shooting Sports USA* magazine or write to the above address for a complimentary issue of SSUSA. All upcoming NRA sanctioned tournaments are listed in this section. Find a tournament being conducted near you and contact the listed sponsor and request a program. Attend this tournament as a spectator. This will give you an opportunity to observe how it is conducted and talk to the sponsor and competitors. Be sure you don't disturb the competitors during the match. The time between relays is a good time to talk to them.

You will see a variety of equipment and accessories being used. Every competitor has his own opinion as to what is best. This may sound confusing, but remember, you're there to gather information.

If there is a club in your area, make arrangements to attend one or more of their practice sessions. This will serve the same purpose as attending a tournament even though a practice session is not always conducted under match conditions. This will however, give you a better opportunity to talk and ask questions about equipment, etc. Also, you may have an opportunity to actually shoot one or more types (brands) of rifles which will help you to decide which seems best for you.

An excellent way for a new shooter to start in competitive shooting is a league. Although NRA rules are used, a league is generally informal. Usually a handicap system is used so all individuals or teams have an equal chance of winning. A Sanctioned League Handbook and application to have a league sanctioned is available at no cost from the NRA Competitive Shooting Division.

Should you decide that competitive shooting is the sport for you, you may find that you wish to join a local club. Ask three questions of your prospective club leaders: 1. Does the Club have a range or access to a range? 2. Does the Club have an active smallbore program? 3. Is the membership open? If you can answer "Yes" to all three of these questions, then you have found a good starting place (most shooting activities are sponsored by local gun clubs).

Equipment

It was stated previously that you don't need the "best of everything" to participate in competition. There are many good values in used equipment. If others know you are "in the market" you will hear of many good deals. Although the question of which is best is asked often, there is no answer. As you will find, each has his or her favorite brand. You may like one make and someone else a different one. However, both are usually satisfied with what they have.

Section 3 of the NRA Smallbore Rifle Rule Book defines authorized equipment and ammunition. This section is not meant to restrict equipment but to define limitations.

Rifle-(light rifle or match rifle) Whichever rifle you select, be sure it will be suited for the rules of the particular type of shooting you wish to do. A reliable gun dealer is most helpful in the selection of a proper rifle. Remember, a used rifle for a beginner is not a bad idea if the dealer can certify the condition of the rifle.

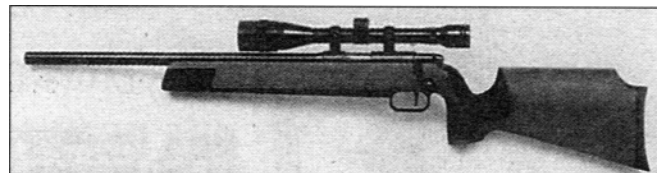
Rifle Sights-After checking the rules, the purchase of good quality sights for whatever type of shooting is a sound investment.

Spotting Scope/Stand-It is the most important piece of equipment after the rifle and rifle sights. Allows you to check your target from a distance. Spotting scopes are precision optical instruments (often you get what you pay for). Scope stands should be suited for the job you will want them to do.

Gun Case-Used to protect your rifle as you travel to and from the range. Necessary in some areas to comply with local laws.

Ammunition-Generally, standard velocity ammunition will shoot more accurately than will high velocity. If you wish to become more competitive, tournament quality ammunition best suited to your particular gun will give the best results.

Rule Book-The current year Smallbore Rifle Rule Book tells you all the regulations of smallbore rifle competitions that are NRA sanctioned.



Accessories

There are many accessories available and no attempt will be made to mention them all. Some of the most common and useful ones will be discussed.

1. Eye and Ear Protection-These items are a must and should be the first accessories you purchase. If you normally wear glasses and they have hardened lenses you are covered for eye protection. If not, you should acquire shooting glasses designed for that purpose. Ear plugs or muffs are necessary also. Some shooters wear both.



2. Shooting Box or Kit-Some means is necessary to transport your accessories to and from the range. This can be as elaborate as a leather case or as simple as a large box or cloth. The choice will depend on the type and amount of shooting you do.

3. Specialty Pieces of Equipment-Shooting mat, shooting coat, glove, sling, kneeling roll, shooting pants, shooting boots-are too varied to mention. The purchase of such equipment depends on personal preference. However, some of these pieces of equipment mentioned become essential depending on the type of competition in which you wish to become involved.

Courses of Fire

Smallbore rifle competition is held over distances of 50 feet, 50 yards/ meters, and/or 100 yards. Match competition can be as quick as 30 shots (10 shots prone, standing, kneeling) in a league or as long as 40 shots at the National Championships. Competition is conducted in as many as four positions-prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing-to as few as one-prone only or standing only. Chapter 7 of the Rule Book discusses all of the courses of fire recognized by NRA while chapter 17 covers all of the courses of fire recognized for national records. Smallbore rifle competition may be fired outdoors or indoors.

A group of matches added together for a total aggregate score is called a tournament. They can be held locally, state-wide, in specific regions or nationally.

NRA Classification System

Many new shooters entering competition are understandably anxious wondering whether they will be good enough to be competitive in the sport. Some years ago, the NRA developed a system to allow competitors of equal abilities the opportunity to participate in shooting based on performance within four specific skill levels. This is the NRA Classification System. This system places all shooters in a particular class; Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert or Master, based on averages.

A new competitor must enter his first tournament in the Master class (highest class). However, at that time he should get a Temporary Score Record Book from the tournament sponsor and record his match scores and compute his average per ten-shot string. His next tournament would be entered in the class in which his average places him. After a minimum number of shots fired in NRA Sanctioned competition have been reported to NRA by the tournament sponsor, an average is taken and an Official Classification Card is sent to the competitor. The competitor must then compete in that class until the quality of his shooting, reflected in his scores, will move him upward to the next class level and the new classification card is sent by NRA. For complete information on the NRA Classification System, see Section 19 in the NRA Smallbore Rifle Rule Book.

Tournament Entry

When entering a tournament you will be required to fill out a Registration/Entry Card (commonly referred to as an SR-1 card) which will be provided by the tournament sponsor. This card gives the sponsor the information he needs to place you in your proper class and category. Part of this SR-1 card is sent by the sponsor to NRA at the end of the tournament with your scores so they can be posted to the NRA Classification System maintained at NRA Headquarters.

If you are not an NRA member and wish to become one (and therefore able to shoot in NRA registered tournaments), you may join the NRA at any NRA sanctioned tournament. For competition purposes you will be considered an NRA member instantly. However, all other NRA membership services and benefits will begin approximately one month after signing up at a tournament.

It is very important that you put your NRA membership ID number (if you are an NRA member) on the SR-1 card. This will assure that your scores are posted properly and quickly. It is also very important that you use your name in the same way all of the time. For example, if initials are used, such as "J.D. Smith", then continue to use initials, rather than sometimes using "Joe Smith."

Other Activities

Competitive shooting is in itself a great hobby. This activity is generally done on weekends with maybe a practice session during the week. NRA has a program whereby the practice session and matches can be used to earn attractive awards. This is the NRA Qualification Program in which a shooter tries to equal or beat a "par" or "set" score. For complete details on the NRA Qualification Program, write to the NRA Education and Training Division.

Honorary Clubs

The NRA offers special recognition for smallbore rifle shooters who have fired outstanding scores in competition by admitting them to the NRA Honorary Clubs; the 400 Club, 570 Club, 800 Club, 1600 Club and 3200 Club. Membership is acquired by either equalling or surpassing predetermined scores in NRA Sanctioned Tournaments. An appropriate memento will be awarded to individuals admitted to these honorary clubs.

Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award

The Smallbore Prone or Position Distinguished award is earned by placing in the top 10% of four NRA Championships, Outdoor and/or Indoor or Regionals.

NRA Rule Book

References have been made to the Small Rifle Rule Book. We strongly recommend that this book be acquired and read. It is not necessary to try to memorize it, but all competitors should be familiar with it. A general understanding will stop many problems before they start. Rule books can be purchased from the NRA Sales Department.

Smallbore Rifle Rule Book
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
NRA Sales Department
P.O. Box 5000, Kearneysville, WV 25430
800-336-7402 (M-F, 9 AM-9 PM, EST)

(Item 16750, \$2.50
each plus shipping
& handling.)



"Where Can I Get . . ."

Many new competitors often ask where to get various equipment and accessories. First, check with local gun shops keeping in mind that good used equipment is an excellent value, especially if your local dealer will guarantee them. If your local gunshop does not carry the type of competition equipment you want, check with the competitors at the tournaments you visit or at your local gun club. Also check the *American Rifleman* and *Shooting Sports USA* for competition equipment in the classified advertisements section.

You have your equipment, your contacts, and tournament locations. You are ready to participate in a lifetime sport. Good shooting!

Contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division if you have any additional questions.



Prone



Standing



Kneeling



50 ft. indoor target
(actual size)



Sitting

NRA GUN SAFETY RULES

THE FUNDAMENTAL NRA RULES FOR SAFE GUN HANDLING ARE:

- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

WHEN USING OR STORING A GUN, ALWAYS FOLLOW THESE NRA RULES

- *Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Know how to safely use the gun.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.

- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Keep pistols cased, holstered or boxed until at the firing line. Follow commands from the Range Officer. To learn more about gun safety, enroll in an NRA safety training or basic marksmanship course, NRA hunter clinic or state hunter education class.

This document was put in digital format by:



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