

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Project 3-Position Smallbore Rifle Rules (2019)

The national governing body for the 3-Position Smallbore Rifle event rules are the NRA Smallbore Rifle Rules (<http://compete.nra.org/official-nra-rule-books.aspx>). These rules are used with modifications in 4-H activities and events as stated below. The following rule set supersedes all other rules where differences exist. General 4-H Shooting Sports Project Rules cover all shooting disciplines. In 4-H events, event specific rules and regulations supersede other governing body rules where differences exist. Coaches, parents, and 4-H shooters are encouraged to be familiar with each of these rule sets.

3. EQUIPMENT

3.2 Any Rifle

Any safe .22 caliber rimfire rifle chambered for .22 Short, .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle cartridges may be used in Smallbore 3-position Rifle competitions with the exception that rifles with stocks based on the AR15/M16 platform to include Ruger 10/22 or any other action in an AR stock or any folding or collapsible stock are not permitted. No restriction is placed on barrel length or overall weight of the rifle and accessories. No part of the rifle or any attachment may extend more than three (3) inches (7.62 cm) beyond the rear of the shooter's shoulder. Triggers must not be subject to accidental discharge. The same rifle must be used throughout a match except in the case of malfunction or a disabled rifle. In either event the competitor may change rifles with the permission of the range officer.

3.7 Sights

a. Metallic sights

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

b. Telescopic

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

c. Any

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

d. Prohibited Sights

Any sighting device that activates the firing mechanism or projects an image on the target is prohibited. **Note that visually impaired individuals may use a sight that projects an image and have a spotter to assist them in aligning the dot with the target.**

3.8 Spotting Scope

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

3.9 Shooting kits

The use of a shooting stand is encouraged in 4-H position rifle shooting. The stand aids in safety and reduces fatigue by permitting rest between shots. The shooting stand, kit or table may be placed down range of the shooter's forward shoulder during the standing stage of 3-position shooting, but it may not be of a size, shape, construction or placement to interfere with other shooters.

3.9.1 Personal wind indicators

Competitors may use wind indicating devices at the firing line in outdoor events as long as they do not interfere with other shooters or range operations.

3.10 Ground cloth

A ground cloth or shooting mat may be used providing it is not constructed or used in a way that provides artificial support.

3.11 Gloves

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

3.12 Padding

Shoulder pads, sling pads and elbow pads may be worn while shooting as long as they do not provide artificial support. A button, hook or strap may be attached to the shooting coat to aid in supporting the sling loop.

3.13 Slings

Unless otherwise specified in the match program, a rifle sling may be used with the rifle stock and one arm only to steady the rifle **except** in the standing position.

3.14 Palm rest

Attached or extended palm rests may be used in the standing position in three-position rifle matches.

3.14.1 Kneeling roll

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

3.15 Schuetzen butt plates

Hooked butt plates of this design must comply with NRA equipment Rule 3.15 where they are permitted.

3.17 Ammunition

Only standard or high velocity .22 rimfire ammunition commercially catalogued as .22 Short, .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle ammunition with an overall length of not more than 1.1 inches, a lead or alloy bullet no larger than .23 inches in diameter and a weight of no more than 40 grains may be used.

3.21 Open Bolt Indicator

An open bolt indicator is required in all 4-H competition to indicate the bolt is open.

4. TARGETS

4.3 Smallbore 3-Position Events

a. Fifty foot 3-position

The standard target is the A-36 or USA-50 target, a 12 bull target (10 record bulls and two sighters surrounded by a guard ring) and representing a 50 meter international target reduced for 50 feet. Unlimited sighter shots may be fired at the sighter bulls during competition, but only one record shot may be fired at each record bull. The central dot (0.008 inch) is scored a "10", and each concentric ring outward is scored one point less. The outermost scoring ring has a value of "3." The rings are part of the higher value scoring area, so shots touching a line are scored at the higher value.

Orion Indoor 50 foot rifle target when using the Orion Electronic Scoring System. The target is similar in design to the USA-50 (NRA-50) target. The scoring rings are equivalent to the ISSF 50m rifle target reduced to 50ft. This target can be viewed and ordered at the Orion website; (<http://www.orionscoringsystem.com/orion/Product.aspx?ProductID=4>).

b. Fifty meter 3-position

The standard target is either the A-50 or the A-50/1 target. The A-50 has 4 record bulls and 2 sighting bulls, and the A-50/1 has a single bull of the same size. The number of shots per record bull is specified in the rules for each event and age class. The NRA A-51 target which is a 50 meter reduced to 50 yard target may be used if the range will not allow for the 50 meter target.

c. Modifications of rules for specific events

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

5. SHOOTING POSITIONS

5.1 The Ground

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

5.2 Artificial support

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

5.3 Rifle butt position

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

5.4 Rifle magazine

The rifle magazine may touch the shooter or his or her clothing, but it may not contact the ground or be used as a means of providing additional support.

5.5 Physically handicapped shooters

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

5.5.1 Temporary disabilities and substitute positions

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

5.6 Prone

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

5.8 Sitting

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

5.10 Kneeling

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

5.12 Standing

Erect on both feet with no other portion of the body touching the ground or any supporting surface. Use of the sling is not permitted and the rifle must be supported by both hands and the shoulder only. The elbow or upper arm of the forward hand may be placed against the body or supported on the hip.

6. RANGE STANDARDS

6.1 Firing line

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

6.2 Firing points

The part of the range provided for the shooter immediately behind the firing line. The minimum width of firing points on a silhouette range is 6 feet.

6.4 Shooting distance

The shooting distance is measured from the firing line to the target face. The shooter may place his or her forward foot or elbow up to the firing line. Both 50 foot and 50 meter events are fired.

6.6 Target and firing point identification

Targets and firing points will be marked with numbers to indicate their position. In silhouette, numbers will be used to identify individual banks of targets. Target numbers should be large enough to be read with the unaided eye under normal conditions.

6.8 Three-position INDOOR Target Heights

Target height should be adjustable to take into account different shooters sizes and shooting positions. All targets should be set at a safe height for the shooter as determined by the range parameters.

6.9 Wind flags

Outdoor ranges will display wind indicator flags at appropriate intervals. Wind indicator flags will be of a light material (strips of cloth or surveyor's tape) of any bright color except red or orange. In air rifle position events there will be at least one wind flag for each four firing points. In air rifle silhouette events, there shall be a wind flag at each bank of targets.

7. COURSES OF FIRE

7.1 Courses of fire

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

a. Fifty foot Smallbore 3-Position Rifle

Indoor and outdoor events may be fired at 50 feet using a variety of targets. The standard course of fire is 40 shots each in prone, standing and kneeling in that order. Specific events may specify a quarter course (10 shots in each position) or a half course (20 shots in each position). This is a precision rifle match using the "any safe rifle" rule. Modifications of this course of fire may be made if announced in the match bulletins, e.g. prone only matches.

b. Fifty meter Smallbore 3-Position Rifle

Similar to the scaled-down match above, this event may be fired either indoors or outdoors using the A-50 target. Courses of fire are designated in match announcements.

8. TIME LIMITS

8.1 Running Time

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

a. Precedence of posted limits

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

8.2 Time allowances

b. Three-position smallbore matches

Shooters are allowed one (1) minutes per record shot in prone position, one and a half (1 ½) minutes in the sitting or kneeling position and two (2) minutes per shot in standing position. This time period includes sighting shots. If the match is fired in stages where shooters must go down range to change targets, time left in one stage will **not** carry over to the following stages.

8.4 Shooter Responsibility

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

9. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

9.1 Changing rifles

No competitor will exchange his rifle or the stock of this rifle during the firing of any single or multiple stage match (except in aggregate matches), unless it has become disabled and has been so designated by the Chief Range Officer. The claim of a disabled rifle must be made immediately, and all shots prior to the claim will be counted as record shots.

9.2 Fouling and sighting shots

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

9.2.1 Misplaced sighting shots

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

9.4 Defective cartridge

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

9.5 Disabled rifle

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

9.6 Malfunction

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

9.8 Weighing Triggers

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

9.9 Shooter position

Shooters must take their positions at their assigned firing points without interfering with shooters on either side of them. No part of the shooter's body may rest on the ground forward of the firing line.

9.13 Interference

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

9.18 Disturbance of competition

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

9.25 Cross-fire and excessive hits

No competitor will fire on the wrong target or fire more than the required number of record shots, including those on another shooter's target.

9.27 Disorderly conduct

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

9.27.1 Destruction of range equipment

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

9.28 Refusal to obey

No person will fail to comply with the instructions of range officials in the proper conduct of their offices.

9.29 Evasion of rules

No person will deliberately evade or attempt to evade competition rules, nor shall any person be an accessory to evasion of any rule. Refusal of an individual to give full disclosure of any rule evasion or violation is considered to be acting as an accessory to that evasion.

9.30 Disqualification

The range officials may disqualify and eject any individual from the range premises for unsafe or discreditable conduct. In the event of a disagreement among the match officials in such cases, the Match Director, Event Coordinator or Shooting Sports Coordinator will determine the outcome. Any case of disqualification will be referred to the 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator for consideration of any additional actions.

10. RANGE CONTROL AND COMMANDS

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

10.1 Discipline

The safety of competitors, range staff and spectators depends upon continuous attention to all safe firearms

handling principles by all persons on or about the range. Self discipline is the foundation of safety; and if it be lacking, it is the responsibility of range personnel to enforce range discipline. It is the duty and responsibility of all persons on the range to assist in this process.

10.1.1 Actions open

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

10.1.2 Rifles Unloaded

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

10.1.3 Rifles Loaded

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

10.1.4a Cease Firing

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

10.1.4b Commence Firing

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

10.1.5 Not ready

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

10.1.6 Loading in slow fire

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

10.4 Policing the range

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

10.6 Repeating commands

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

10.7 Firing Line procedures and Commands

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

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

b. Go forward and hang your targets

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

c. The preparation period starts now

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

d. The preparation period has ended

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

e. Is the line ready?

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

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

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

g. Cease firing, make the line safe

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

h. Is the line clear?

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

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

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

j. Unsafe condition

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

k. As you were

This command means to disregard the immediately preceding command.

l. Carry on

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

14. SCORING

14.1 Scoring times

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

14.2 Scoring location

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

14.3 How to score

Each shot will be scored by the location of the bullet hole on the target surface. The innermost (highest value) scoring area touched by the bullet hole, even if it is elongated or key holed is the assigned value of the shot. Ricochets will not be scored, but allowance will be made for key holed bullets.

The use of appropriate scoring gauges is strongly encouraged on all questionable bullet holes and on any questionable hole on other targets. Appropriate scoring gauges should be used based on the target being scored.

14.3.1 Authority to use scoring gauges

Only duly authorized range or statistical staff and referees or jury members are authorized to use scoring gauges. A given hole may be plugged (have the scoring gauge used) only once.

14.4 Misses

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

14.5 Early or late shots

Any shots fired at the target before the **commence firing** command or after the **cease fire** command are counted as misses. The hits of highest value will be counted as misses until the number of early or late shots is eliminated.

14.7 Excessive hits

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

Excess hits on a target card will be scored as follows:

a. On his own target

Excess hits on any bull will result in moving the higher scoring shot to any record bull with a penalty of one (1) point for each occurrence. If excessive hits occur on any target, only the required number of hits of lowest value will be scored, unless it is confirmed that another shooter fired the excessive hit(s). Confirmed hits by another shooter will be discounted and not entered into the score.

b. On the target of another competitor

If a competitor fires more than the required number of shots for a target card and one or more hits are on a target other than his own, all shots on the targets of others will be brought back to the corresponding bullseye(s) on his own target and scored as outlined in Rule 14.7 (a) (excessive hits) and Rule 14.10 (crossfires)

15. DECISION OF TIES

15.1 Decision of ties

Ties will be decided as follows:

- a. The shooter with the greatest number of center shots over the course of fire will be placed ahead of other ties.
- b. By the highest ranking score in the standing position, then kneeling, then sitting, and then prone.
- c. By the greater number of center shots in the standing position.
- d. By the highest ranking score on the last numbered bullseye, in standing (kneeling, sitting, prone- as needed).

16. CHALLENGES AND PROTESTS

16.1 Challenges

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

16.2 Protests

A competitor may formally protest

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

16.3 How to Protest

A protest must be initiated immediately upon the occurrence of the protested incident. Failure to comply with the

following procedure will automatically void the protest:

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

The protest and result of the protest will only be discussed with the shooter/participant that filed the complaint.

18. SHOOTER AND COACH RESPONSIBILITY

18.0 Safety

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

18.0.1 Behavior and sportsmanship

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

18.2 Knowledge of procedures and rules

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

18.3 Eligibility

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

18.7 Reporting

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

18.7b Required Orientation

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

18.8 Timing

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

18.11 Checking scores

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

18.12 Clearing the firing point

Each competitor must leave the firing point promptly at the completion of his/her relay. Rifles must be unloaded with their actions open and an open bolt indicator in place.